Hamilton
Annual Report
2006

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/townofhamiltonan2006unse

Town of Hamilton

2006 Annual Report

Town of Hamilton
Essex County
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Incorporated June 21, 1793
Area 14.99 Square Miles
Town Population 8,332

Sixth Congressional District
Fifth Councilor District
First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District
Fourth Essex Representative District

State Officials
Congressman: John Tierney of Salem
Senator: Bruce E. Tarr of Gloucester
Representative: Brad Hill of Ipswich

Town Hall Hours
Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In Memoriam *
Mathew Clayton
Dorothy Lamsom
John E. Lawrence
Emily C. Maurand
John Miller
Frank Ragusa
Kay Turner
** Residents who had served in town government*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE NO.
WHO'S WHO	1
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	6
PROPRIETARY FUND - Water Enterprise Statement of Net Assets	9
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS – Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	10
ANNUAL REPORTS	
Agricultural Commission	11
Board of Assessors	11
Board of Health	12
Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee	13
Community Preservation Committee	14
Conservation Commission	15
Council on Aging	17
Council on Aging – Van Service	18
Cultural Council	19
Department of Public Works	20
• *Highway Division*	20
• *Park Division*	21
• *Cemetery Division*	21
• *Equipment Maintenance Operations*	21
• *Sanitation*	22
• *Water Division*	22
Economic Development Committee	24
Emergency Center	25
Finance and Advisory Committee	26
Fire Department	27
Hamilton Foundation	28
Hamilton Housing Authority	29
Housing Partnership	29
Inspection Departments	
• *Building*	30
• *Electrical*	30
• *Plumbing*	30
• *Gas*	30
Landfill Steering Committee	31
Planning Board	32
Police Department	34
Public Library	35
Public Safety Building Committee	37
Recreation Department	38
Recycling Committee	39

Regional School District	
• *School Committee Members and Terms*	**40**
• *School District*	**41**
• *Department of Student Services*	**43**
• *Curriculum and Instruction*	**44**
• *Bessie Buker Elementary School*	**45**
• *Cutler Elementary School*	**46**
• *Winthrop Elementary School*	**47**
• *Miles River Middle School*	**48**
• *North Shore Regional Vocational School*	**49**
• *Regional High School*	**51**
• *Grade Eight Graduates*	**52**
• *Class of 2006 High School Graduates*	**53**
Sealer of Weights and Measures	**54**
Town Clerk	**55**
Treasurer Collector	**57**
Veterans' Service	**59**
Zoning Board of Appeals	**60**

Copies of the following **2006 TOWN MEETINGS MINUTES AND ELECTION DATA** may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the Hamilton Town Hall or on-line at www.hamiltonma.gov.

• *Annual Town Meeting*	*May 1, 2006*	
• *Annual Town Meeting (Adjourned Session)*	*May 3, 2006*	
• *Annual Town Election*	*May 11, 2006*	
• *State Primary*	*September 19, 2006*	
• *State Election*	*November 7, 2006*	
• *Special Town Meeting*	*November 13, 2006*	
• *Special Town Meeting*	*November 14, 2006*	

WHO's WHO 2006

Administrator's Office
Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary
Allison Jenkins, Assist. to Administrator
Robert Timpani, Facilities Manager
Candace P. Wheeler, Town Administrator

Agricultural and Equestrian Committee
Peter Britton, Chair, 2011
Stephen Druschel, 2011
Susan Lawrence, 2007
Camilla Rich, 2009
Andrew Rodgers, 2009
Susan Sandler, 2007

Animal Control
Anne Jackman, Assist. Animal Inspector
Dyan Katz, Animal Inspector
Stephen Kavanagh, Animal Control Officer

Board of Assessors (Elected)
Robert H. Trussell, Chair, 2008
Steven Ozahowski, 2006
Gelean M. Campbell, 2007
Thomas S. Hogan, Jr., Appraiser
Robin Nolan, Director of Office
Margaret C. Donovan, Admin. Assistant

Board of Health
JoAnne Ainsworth, 2006
Doris Cole, Administrative Asst.
Stephen Druschel, 2008, Chair
John Jacobi, Consultant Agent
Gail Messelaar, Administrator Assistant
Rodd Stockwell, M.D., 2007

Board of Selectmen (Elected)
William F. Bowler, 2008
Robert M. Bullivant, Chair, 2007
Richard A. Low, 2009

Budget Process Committee
Bill Bowler
Richard Boroff
John Clemenzi
Alexa McCloughan
Catherine Harrison
Marinel McGrath
Larry Swartz
Candace Wheeler

Building Department(s)
Charles Brett, Building Inspector
Robert Brown, Electrical Inspector
John Caldwell, Asst. Building Inspector
Debra Paskowski, Admin. Assistant
William Thomas, Gas/Plumbing Inspector
Michael Twomey, Asst. Gas Inspector
Mark Unger, Asst. Electrical Inspector

Cable TV Access
Bill Melville

Cable TV Board
Philip Conrad, Treasurer
Kimberly Jaeger
Leigh Keyser
Robert MacKean
Bill Nichols, Clerk
Bob Popadic, President

Capital Management Advisory Committee
Steve Loeper, 2007
Nick Pollard, At large, 2007
Candace Wheeler, 2007

Chebacco Woods Management
Virginia Cookson
Sue McLaughlin
Ralph Smith, Manchester, Chair

Community Preservation Committee
Christine Berry, Coordinator
Bob Bullivant, 2007
Tom Catalano, 2007
David Carey, 2009
Peter Clark, 2011
Peter Dana, 2011
Chris Davis, Chair, 2009
Leigh Keyser, 2007
Ray Whipple, 2009
Lindle Willnow, 2009

Conservation Commission
Virginia Cookson, 2010
Robert Cronin, 2010
Peter Dana, 2009
Sarah Getchell, 2011
John Hamilton, 2009, Co- Chair
James Hankin, Coordinator
John Hendrickson, Aux
Miles River Task Force
John Rhoads, Aux
Camilla Rich, 2011
Michelle Stecyk, 2010, Co- Chair

Constable
Walter Cullen
Robert Poole

Council on Aging
Carol Castle
David Cooper
Barbara Essensa
Mimi Fanning, Chair
Bill Jenkins
Dorothy Lamson
Mary Maione

Cultural Council
Lorrie Berry
Heidi Blaser, 2012
Mary Buntin
Meredith Gisness, 2011, Chair
Roberta Perkins, 2012
Elizabeth Roberts

Department of Public Works
Steven T. Kenney, Director
Gail Hannable, Administrative Assistant
Nancy Stevens, Administrative Assistant
Harold Allen
Rick Campana
Peter Cobb
Kirk Davis
David Dolan
Gary Kureta
Jeff Mazzetta
Ivan Muise
Paul Rigol
Joseph Shea
Timothy Shea
Greg Stevens

Economic Development Committee
William Gisness, Chair
Peter Gourdeau
David Lemons
Carl Swanson
Peter Twining,

Emergency Communications Board
Anne Marie Cullen
Walter Cullen
Steven Kenney
Phillip W. Stevens, Jr.

Emergency Center Staff
Anne Marie Cullen, Director
Kevin Harrison
Keith Holloran
Joe Achadinha
Brian Pratt
Kenneth Brand
Cynthia Shaw
David Mastrianni
James McNeilly
Andrew Neill

Emergency Management Director
Walter D. Cullen

Federal Census Liaison
Jane Wetson

Finance/Advisory Committee
Daniel Bukkhegyi, 2009
Stephen Homer, Associate
Arthur Oberheim, 2007, Chair
Jane Dever Prince, 2008
Alexander Shaw, 2008

Finance Director/Accountant
Deborah Nippes-Mena
Dyan M. Katz, Assistant Accountant

Fire Department
Auxiliary
Walter Christiansen
Ryan Goodwin

Captain
Daniel Ellison
Mark Goodwin

Chaplain
Fred Day

Fire Chief
Philip W. Stevens, Jr., 2007

Deputy Chiefs
Kenneth Brand
Channing Howard
Daniel Parsons

Deputy Forest Wardens
Joseph Allen
Kenneth Brand
Ray Brunet
Daniel Ellison
Mark Goodwin
Channing Howard
Edmund L. Mullin, Jr.
Daniel Parsons
David Shaughnessy
Michael Twomey

Firefighters
Richard Ayer
Brandon Clark
Jeremy Clark
Stephen Collins
Edward Contilli
Jeffrey Cross
David Dolan
Michael Dolliver
Kristine Ellis
Andrew Ellison
Brain Hill
Steven McInnis
Edmund L. Mullin, Jr.
Andre Painchaud
Carl Potter

Firefighters (Continued)
Glenn Preston
Kevin Preston
Alexander Shaw
Kenneth Shedden
Erick Tarr
Peter Walton

Forest Warden
Philip W. Stevens, Jr.

Hazardous Waste Coordinator
Daniel Parsons

Lieutenant
Joseph Allen
Raymond Brunet
David Shaughnessy
Michael Twomey

Photographer
Sandra Painchaud

Safety Officers
Donald Killam
Ronald Lees, Assistant

Hamilton Foundation
Aletta Bond, 2009
Loretta Cusick, 2011, Chair
Heather Ford, 2007
Mark Herrick, 2011
Julie Nagazina, 2011

Hamilton Historical Society
Edna Barney
Mary Anne Burridge
Connie Cobb
Emily Cook
Linda Coonrod
Arthur Crosbie, Chair
Annette Janes

Harbormasters
Robert Blanchard, 2007, Assistant
Walter D. Cullen, 2007
Stephen Trepanier, 2007, Assistant

Historic District Commission
Thomas Catalano, 2007, Chair
Arthur Crosbie, 2008
James Donovan, 2008
Stephen Homer, 2007
Robert Payne, 2008
Stephanie Serafini, Alternate, 2007
Elizabeth Wheaton, 2008

Housing Authority (Elected)
Jay Burnham, 2006
Leigh Keyser, 2009, Chair
Julie Martineau, Coordinator
Robert Poole, 2007
Leon Purington, State
Clarence Trepanier, 2010

Housing Partnership Committee
David Carey, Chair
Daniel Gaquin
William Gavin
Robert Poole

Landfill Steering Committee
William Bowler, 2011
Steve Druschel, 2011
Bill Gisness, 2011
David Kerr, 2011
John Lawrence, Jr., 2011
Evelyn Shuman, 2011
Tom Spang, 2011
Betsy Spang, 2011
Peter Twining, 2011
Winfred Whitman, 2011

LIBRARY
Diane Barrett
Tim Bean
Elizabeth Bellucci
Bethany Bodengraven
Lisa Craig-McCormack
Jeanine Curtis
Karen D'Ambrosio
Nancy Day
Brett DeBose
Jan Dempsey, Director
Lorraine Der
William Devitt
Janet Dykstra
Kelly Flynn
Josh Lear
Suzanne Liacos-Dix
David Lindsay
Julie Preston
Dane Webber

Library Trustees (Elected)
Annette Janes, Chair, 2006
Madelyn Liberti, 2007
Joanne Ridinger,
Elizabeth Stanton, 2006

Long Range Financial Planning Committee
Steve Loeper
Richard Low
Candace Wheeler
Don Gallant
Marinel McGrath

MAPC Representative
Jean Nelson, 2007

MBTA Representative
TBD

Miles River Collaboration/Task Force
Robert Bullivant
Virginia Cookson, 2009
John Hamilton, 2009
Steve Kenney

Moderator
Bruce Ramsey, 2007

North Shore Regional Vocational School
David Ketcham

Office on Disability
David Cooper, 2007
Leigh Keyser, 2007
Candace Wheeler, ADA Coordinator

Open Space Committee
Gretel Clark
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, Chair
Chris Davis
Sarah Getchell, Coordinator
John Hamilton
John Hendrickson
Jacqueline Hodge
Betsy Hopkins
Sue McLaughlin
Paul Penner
Lucy Pingree
John Rhoads
Michele Stecyk

Parking Clerk
Jane M. Wetson

Personnel Board
William Boesch, 2008
Anne Marie Cullen, 2008
Tom Lawnsby, 2008
David Neill, 2009
Larry Warner, 2010, Chair

Planning Board (Elected)
Peter Clark, 2007
Marc Johnson, 2008, Chair
Rick Mitchell, 2008
Jean Nelson, Planning Coordinator
Susie Richey, 2009
Marcella Ricker
David Santomenna, 2010
Evelyn Shuman, 2006
Dorothy Stookey, 2009

Police Department
Chief of Police
Walter D. Cullen, 2007
Myrna Doran, Admin. Asst. (retired 10/31)

Chaplain
Rev. Louis Bourgeois, Chaplain

Police Officers
Sgt. Donald D. Dupray
Sgt. Paul R. Grant
Sgt. Scott G. Janes
Detective Kenneth Nagy
Lt. Robert A. Nyland
Sgt. Stephen Trepanier
Detective Karen Wallace

Patrolmen
Matthew Donovan
Arthur Hatfield
Michael Marchand
Kent Richards
Brian Shaw
Stephen Walsh
Michael Wetson

Lockup
Edward Seaver
Clarence Trepanier

Reserves
Joe Achadinha
Sean Cullen
Jeffrey Cross
Charles Downey
Keith Holleran
David Mastrianni
Andrew Neill
Nathan Swisher

Public Safety Building Committee
Kalil Boghdan, Chair
Walter D. Cullen
Anne Marie Cullen
Bob DeFelice
Dick Flynn
Phil McCarthy
Phil Stevens

Recreation
Diane Brown, Administrative Assistant
Jay Butler, 2008
Bob Kerrigan, 2008, Chair
Jane Lyman, 2007
Margaret Whitesell, Director
Lindle Willnow, 2006

Recycling Committee
Gretel Clark, 2008
Heather Ford, Chair, 2007
Fran Grace, 2008
Susanne Richey, 2008
Jane Roundy, 2007

Registrar of Voters
Mary Anne Burridge, 2008
Edward W. Seaver, Jr., 2006
Tim Clark, 2010
Jane M. Wetson, ex-officio

Road Safety Committee
Bradford Kimball, Chair
Marie Buckley
Phyllis Cutler
Matt Donovan, Police Representative
Tim Ford
John Hamilton
John Hendrickson
Camilla Rich

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS
Director of Curriculum
Maryellen Duffy, Ed. D.

Director Student Services
Allison Brown Collins

School Business Administrator
Charles E. Cooke, III

School Committee (Elected)
Denise A. Bisaillon, 2007
Richard L. Boroff, 2008
Donald Gallant, 2007, Chair
Lisa S. Gaquin, 2007
Catherine Harrison, 2008
William Martin, 2008
Alexa McCloughan, 2009
John O'Keefe, 2009
Laurie Wilson, 2009

Superintendent of Schools
Marinel D. McGrath, Ed. D.

Preschool and Out of District Coordinator
Deborah Frontierro

Principals
Brian O'Donoghue, Bessie Buker
Jennifer Clifford, Cutler
Martha Cesarz, Winthrop
Janis DeSantis, Miles River
Robert Krol, H-W Regional High School

Sealer of Weights and Measures
Robert Rose

Senior Services Coordinator
Lindsey Snavely

Technology Committee
Tom Cannon, Chair, 2007
Charles Carrigan, 2007
Kimberly Jaeger, 2007
Robert McKean, 2007
Bill Melville
Tom Rogers, 2007
Candace Wheeler, 2007
Andy Wood, 2007

TIP Coordinator
Steven Kenney, 2007

Town Clerk (Elected)
Jane M. Wetson, 2008
Marsha Perkins, Administrative Assistant

Town Counsel
Donna B. MacKenna

Town Moderator (Elected)
Bruce C. Ramsey, 2006

Treasurer/Collector
Cheryl J. Booth
Margaret A. McLoughlin Asst. Treas/Coll.
Christine L. Larcom, Admin. Assistant

Tree/Insect Coordinator
Steven Kenney

Veterans District Director
Terrance Hart

Veterans Graves Officer
Albert Lougee, 2007
Jack Akin, 2007

Zoning Board of Appeals
Beth Ganister, Chair, 2008
Winifred Whitman, 2009
David Sullivan 2007
Diane Meibaum, alt
Susan Wiltshire, alt

BOARD OF SELECTMAN

"Do you remember the floods of '06?" This will be a nostalgic conversation starter in future generations much like the Blizzard of '78. Forces of nature were very prominent among the challenges faced by the Town of Hamilton in the past year.

Exemplary teamwork was displayed by employees of Public Works, Emergency Communication, Fire and Police departments during the torrential rains that began on Mothers Day and during the mop-up efforts, which are still continuing. They mobilized to protect citizens who were stranded by impassable roads, to pump water from countless basements, to remove debris and re-route traffic from bridges which had to be closed on Gardner, Highland and Winthrop Streets. The Massachusetts Highway Department took engineering and financial responsibility for reconstructing the historic bridge on Highland St./Mill Rd. which showed signs of collapsing into the Ipswich River.

In the aftermath of the flood, representatives of Hamilton, Wenham, Beverly and Ipswich came together to plan how to deal with the flooding problems caused by the Miles River. Agreement has been reached that the flow of the river must be enhanced in order to protect adjacent neighborhoods in which basements are being continuously pumped because of the high level of ground water and septic systems are in danger of being compromised. The Miles River Restoration Committee has been working in tandem with Rep. Brad Hill and Sen. Bruce Tarr to explore how funding can be secured to conduct a hydrologic study of the river, consider dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, remove invasive plant species (purple loosetrife) from the channel, curtail the beavers, which have constructed some prodigious dams, and educate citizens that the use of lawn fertilizers are contributing to the vegetative problems.

The detection in Hamilton of a mosquito bearing the Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus posed a serious threat to public health. Fortunately, the Town Meeting of 2005 voted funds for Hamilton to rejoin the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District which laid the traps, analyzed the disease-bearing insect and provided guidance that the detection had occurred so late in the mosquito season that spraying of insecticides would be ineffective and unnecessary. There was also the discovery of a rabid skunk which bit a dog in the vicinity of the Regional High School.

Wind energy is being explored by the Selectmen and U.S. Air Force officers at the Sagamore Hill solar observatory. There is mutual interest in studying whether a wind turbine erected there could be used to transform the prevailing winds into electrical power. Such a project could help to satisfy the energy needs of the observatory, produce energy credits for Hamilton and promote environmental benefits of reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and developing renewable energy.

Changes in Hamilton's landscape have elicited a wide range of emotional responses from Town employees, neighbors and the general public.

- Construction of the new Public Safety Building is progressing rapidly toward completion. As the new home of Fire, Police and Emergency Communication personnel, it will serve to protect the future generation of Hamilton citizens.
- The installation and dedication of the World War II memorial in front of Town Hall culminated a three-year effort of the Honor Roll Committee from the A.P. Gardner American Legion Post to commemorate Hamilton's native sons and daughters who served in the armed forces between 1941 and 1945. Funds were donated by the Town, the state of Massachusetts, the Rotary Club, the children of the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District in addition to the American Legion. There was an outpouring of donated efforts from citizens, area civic groups, companies and Town employees to make this dream come true.

- The Carriage House Junction project being built at the intersection of Essex and Sagamore Streets under Chapter 40B of Massachusetts General Laws will provide six units of affordable housing. After lengthy and contentious public hearings, the Town has become united in the understanding that a comprehensive plan for future development of affordable housing is required to better control our destiny.
- The new Fellowship Hall and educational building of the First Congregational Church are rapidly progressing on Bay Road. A complex series of lawsuits were successfully resolved out of court by a negotiation process between church representatives, neighbors and Town boards, thus avoiding the threat of thousands of dollars of potential legal expenses.
- At the Selectmen's request, a Steering Committee is actively working on ways to convert the former Town landfill on Chebacco Road to become a future site for commercial development.
- Under the Selectmen's direction, the Economic Development Committee is researching possible solutions for parking and septic systems which are currently limiting the future growth of the downtown business district.
- A feasibility study is being prepared by the Selectmen to analyze the structural soundness of the former Hamilton Library to determine whether it can be used as a meeting place for senior citizens, teens and Town boards and committees.
- Together with the Wenham Selectmen, we have reached some important milestones in the advancement of shared resources between the two towns.
- A non-profit corporation was established to conduct the business of the community access television (CATV) network which came under local control after contract negotiations with Comcast and Verizon. Citizens will benefit from an expanded opportunity for locally generated television programming, a data network connecting most of the government and school buildings and a funding stream which will be used to improve the system over the next 10 to 15 years.
- Participation in a study will determine whether a Regional Communication Operation in Essex County might provide financial and service improvements for emergency dispatch activities.
- A Capital Management Committee has been formed to develop a plan for the repair and replacement of assets owned by the two towns and the Regional School District.
- A Recycling Committee is studying ways to optimize the amount of trash (metals, plastics, glass and paper) which can be diverted from solid waste disposal in order to save money and protect the environment. Recommendations are being investigated as to whether fees should be charged for trash removal (Pay As You Throw) to economically encourage citizens to increase their recycling efforts.
- The Budget Process and Long-Ranging Planning Committees are continuing to work on making the financial business of the towns and the Regional School District more cooperative and transparent.
- A Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Committee was formed to help Hamilton and Wenham to develop a common approach for the towns to discuss how non-profit organizations in the respective towns should be paying a fairer share for the municipal services which are provided to their constituents.

There were some lowlights during the year which served as stark reminders that Hamilton is subject to the gamut of social and political pressures associated with life in the 21st century.

- A homicide investigation was conducted after the tragic death of Ruby Blackhall in her School St. home.
- In response to a citizen's complaint, the Selectmen were investigated by the Essex County District Attorney's office for an alleged violation of the Open Meeting Law. No finding has been issued at this writing.
- The litigation involving Hamilton's Water Withdrawal Permit with the Department of Environmental Protection was joined by the Ipswich River Watershed Association which is trying to force communities to manage the pumping of water based upon changes in the flow of the Ipswich River.

- Hamilton has filed an appeal to a decision of an Administrative Magistrate representing the DEP which argues that the Town's well fields are hydrologically distinct from the Ipswich River and that the water conservation measures contained in Hamilton's by-laws are more effective than the ones proposed by DEP and IRWA. Efforts to mediate the dispute are in progress.
- A quorum of 150 citizens was not reached in two tries to hold a Special Town Meeting in November. Your government cannot function without your participation.

The Selectmen devoted considerable effort to the contract negotiations with Town employee unions which resulted in a restructuring of the cost-sharing formula for health insurance, the first such change since 1993. These cost escalations have been one of the largest drains on municipal budgets throughout Massachusetts and the United States. The contract settlements will accomplish a 5% shift in the cost of health insurance premiums from the Town to employees so that the split for the majority of insured employees will change from 80% to 75% paid by the Town. A series of meetings were held with the employees Insurance Advisory Committee before individual negotiations commenced with four unions. A fifth union was recognized voluntarily for three full-time employees of the Fire Department, and contract negotiations will begin early in 2007. The Town successfully negotiated a 9% reduction from the 12.6% higher quote for FY '07 medical insurance coverage, saving about $52,000.

The Board of Selectmen said farewell to outgoing Chairman Jim Bryant and Assistant Town Administrator Maureen Hickey and welcomed new Selectman Dick Low and Assistant Town Administrator Allison Jenkins. We also hired Deborah Nippes-Mena as the first full-time Finance Director of the Town.

The Town's social fabric was enhanced with the first annual Pumpkins in the Park celebration. Parents and children came to the Fire Station on a Saturday afternoon in October to carve jack-o'-lanterns which were illuminated and displayed around, and floated on, Weaver Pond at Patton Park. The volunteer efforts to coordinate this event were outstanding.

Hamilton's financial condition remains the most overriding (pun intended) concern for the future. The cumulative effects of Proposition 2½, the Town's dwindling financial reserves, reductions in the amounts of state aid, escalating costs for budget-breakers such as energy, fuel and health insurance, and the increasing need to rely upon local property taxes as the source of revenues have brought us to the brink of serious reductions in the levels of Town services. We narrowly averted the need for a financial override to fund the Town's operating budget last year, and the prospects are virtually certain that an override will be required for the FY '08 budget. If voters decide that they are not willing to support the additional expenses, it will be necessary to eliminate the jobs of Town employees and reduce programs which citizens have previously considered to be part of the quality of life in Hamilton. The only remedy to this budget crunch is to broaden the tax base by encouraging additional development, both commercial and residential. It is imperative that tools such as a Senior Housing by-law, Smart Growth and mixed-use development are brought forward as ways to alleviate the burden on current home-owners, many of whom are facing bleak choices about whether they can continue to afford to live here.

The strength of Hamilton is rooted in the caring and committed work of volunteers and employees who regularly serve the Town. The amounts of intelligence, energy and enthusiasm which are devoted to finding solutions to complex problems are simply outstanding. By harnessing these attributes and channeling them in cooperative efforts, we will be successful in overcoming adversities.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Bullivant, Chairman

PROPRIETARY FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET ASSETS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

	Business-Type Activities – Enterprise Fund
	Water
OPERATING REVENUES	
Charge for services	$ 746,876
Utility liens	19,123
Other	15,278
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	781,277
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Cost of service and administration	568,304
Depreciation	153,458
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	721,762
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	59,515
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
Investment income	373
Interest expense	(149,692)
TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES), NET	(149,319)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE TRANSFER	(89,804)
TRANSFERS	
Transfers in	164,846
Transfers out	(119,335)
TOTAL TRANSFERS	45,511
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(44,293)
NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,930,065
NET ASSETS AT THE END OF YEAR	$ 3,885,772

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

	General	Community Preservation	Police/Fire Station	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Real estate and personal property taxes	$ 17,432,733	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 17,432,733
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	1,017,954	-	-	-	1,017,954
Tax liens	67,090	-	-	-	
Payments in lieu of taxes	22,853	-	-	-	
Community preservation surcharges	-	288,708	-	-	
Charges for services	-	-	-	286,099	286,099
Intergovernmental	1,089,074	-	-	293,227	1,382,301
Special assessments	4,796	-	-	-	4,796
Penalties and interest on taxes	51,448	-	-	-	51,448
Licenses, permits and fees	279,909	-	-	-	279,909
Fines and forfeitures	6,508	-	-	-	6,508
Departmental	120,971	-	-	18,001	138,972
Contributions	-	-	-	14,840	14,840
Investment income	246,101	-	-	35,590	281,691
Other	-	-	-	35,973	35,973
TOTAL REVENUES	20,339,437	288,708	-	683,730	21,311,875
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General Government	1,040,742	-	-	41,616	1,082,358
Public safety	2,342,159	-	704,204	243,233	3,289,596
Education	13,128,879	-	-	-	13,128,879
Public works	1,153,069	-	-	122,507	1,275,576
Health and human services	129,575	-	-	8,477	138,052
Culture and recreation	695,489	-	-	273,650	969,139
Pension benefits	408,466	-	-	-	408,466
Employee benefits	646,666	-	-	-	646,666
Property and liability insurance	127,395	-	-	-	127,395
State and county charges	177,223	-	-	-	177,223
Debt service:					
Principal	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
Interest	200,226	-	-	-	200,226
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	20,229,889	-	704,204	689,483	21,623,576
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	109,548	288,708	(704,204)	(5,753)	(311,701)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES					
Transfers in	131,335	-	-	471,053	602,388
Proceeds of bonds and notes	-	-	5,939,000	-	5,939,000
Premium from issuance of bonds and notes	56,730	-	-	-	56,730
Transfers out	(496,574)	-	-	(151,325)	(647,899)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(308,509)	-	5,939,000	319,728	5,950,219
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(198,961)	288,708	5,234,796	313,975	5,638,518
FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,343,513	-	-	1,667,908	3,011,421
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	$ 1,1444,552	$ 288,708	$ 5,234,796	$ 1,981,883	$ 8,649,939

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

During its first year since establishment, the Hamilton Agricultural Commission supported several farms in resolving disputes and drafted a "Right To Farm Bylaw". The Commission continues to network with farms, the equestrian community, and various town boards to assist in identifying and resolving issues of concern.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

For 2006, the total assessed taxable valuation of Hamilton is $1,489,346,700 with a property tax levy of $18,735,981. The fiscal year 2007 tax rate as certified by the Department of Revenue is $12.58 up .65 from the previous year. Building permits issued in 2006 resulted in an additional $171,712 in tax levy growth.

In 2006, the Board of Assessors completed an interim year adjustment of all property in the town of Hamilton as required by the Department of Revenue. Under Massachusetts's law, this Board is required to value all of Hamilton's 2786 properties at 100 percent of their full and fair cash valuation, thereby insuring an equitable distribution of the property tax levy. The town's average single-family valuation is $544,400. More importantly, we believe that we have met our statutory obligation to re-establish proper assessment level and uniformity throughout the town of Hamilton. Final Department of Revenue certification of assessed valuations was granted in December and property tax bills were subsequently mailed at the end of December. The current valuation and levy percentages based upon property class are as follows:

CLASS	VALUATION	%	TAXES PAID	LEVY %
Residential	1,424,341,800	96%	$17,918,220	96%
Commercial	55,110,100	4%	$693,285	4%
Industrial	760,400	0%	$9,566	0%
Personal	9,134,400	1%	$114,911	1%
TOTALS	1,489,346,700	100%	$18,735,981	100%

In 2006, the Assessing Department completed the fourth year of a state-mandated data re-collection program. This process is an important component of maintaining the integrity of Hamilton's real property information database.

Also in 2006, the Board of Assessors declared an overlay surplus of over 57,000 dollars. This surplus was realized in large part due to determination of defensible valuations as incorporating a thorough appeal review process. This surplus was returned to the Town for fiscal year 2008 budgetary purposes.

We would like to assure all property owners that the Board of Assessors will continue its effort to meet the challenge of maintaining equitable assessments in this current real estate market.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Trussell, Chairman
Gelean M. Campbell, Member
Steven Ozahowski, Member

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health is responsible for the overall stewardship of the public health and environmental protection of the town. Responsibilities are defined both by local by-laws and state law. The Board promotes, enacts, and enforces all health and environmental laws, rules and regulations. Additionally, the Board of Health conducts health clinics, participates in education programs, and administers the contracts for the food inspection program, a public health nurse, communicable disease follow-up program, and animal inspection services.

The Board consists of three members serving three-year terms in rotation. Stephen Druschel served as Chair, JoAnne Ainsworth and Rodd Stockwell, M.D. served as members. John Jacobi is the Health Agent. Gail Messelaar continued as Administrative Assistant as well as Doris Cole as part-time Administrative Assistant. Dyan Katz was reappointed as Animal Inspector and Anne Jackman was reappointed as Assistant Animal Inspector.

In 2006, the Hamilton Board of Health continued to be pro-active in the review and formulation of a disaster plan in concert with the Department of Public Health and the Office of Domestic Preparedness. In addition, we continued to partner with thirteen cities and towns which make up the North Shore Coalition for Emergency Preparedness.

The Board is working in conjunction with Walter Montgomery of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control, the Board of Selectmen, and town residents to establish a Mosquito Control Monitoring program for the town.

The Health Agent enforced Massachusetts Title V regulations for sewage disposal. This included many site visits to existing and proposed home sites, review and approval of plans, and the issuing of treatment and disposal system permits. Our role also includes the inspection of construction of the sewage systems and involvement in the permit process for work on existing and new homes.

Semi-annual food inspections were performed by Frank Giacalone at all permanent, limited and temporary establishments that sell and/or prepare food including the school cafeterias in the Hamilton-Wenham School District.

Partner's Home Care provided public health, preventative health and health promotion services to the residents of Hamilton. These included: tuberculosis screening; immunization against other communicable diseases; communicable disease follow-up by telephone and/or home visits with completion of epidemiological survey; one time home visits to high risk mothers and their newborns; home visits to assess an individual's health and safety and grief visits. Increases in both Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases continue to make up the majority of all reportable diseases in Hamilton.

Influenza/pneumonia vaccination clinics were held by the Board of Health and Partners Home Care.

In the spring, a rabies immunization clinic for dogs and cats was offered at the Town garage. The clinic was sponsored by the Veterinary Association of the North Shore.

The Board cannot over emphasize the absolute need for dog and cat owners to obtain rabies vaccinations for their pets and revaccinations on the required schedule. Please have your cats and dogs vaccinated not only to protect their health but also to prevent rabies in humans, as pets are the bridge between ground animals and humans. Pets must be revaccinated within one (1) year of their initial vaccination and revaccinated as recommended by the Veterinarian or vaccine manufacturer thereafter.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Animal Health and Dairying requires all horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and flocks of poultry numbering twenty-five (25) or more to be inspected and an annual census completed. The Inspector of Animals conducted inspections of the animals and their housing conditions throughout the Town of Hamilton.

Numerous environmental and housing complaints were also investigated and properly handled in accordance with State regulations.

The Board distributed vaccines and biologics from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to physicians in Hamilton.

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Stephen Druschel, Chairman
JoAnne Ainsworth
Rodd Stockwell, M.D.

CHEBACCO WOODS LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

During 2006, Sue McLaughlin continued to lead monthly walks in the Woods. These walks are announced in advance in The Manchester Cricket, The Hamilton Chronicle, The Salem News, and The Gloucester Times.

Charles Kellogg of Manchester agreed to fill a vacant position on the Committee. At this writing, however, one additional vacancy remains to be filled.

After years of work, the proposed land swaps to solve the two large encroachments on the property are ready to be sent to the Commonwealth for final approval.

Also after years of unavoidable delay, work has begun to stabilize wet stretches of the main trails in the Woods. Brox is providing the pervious material used to accomplish stabilization, and R. B. Strong has been contracted to install the material. Unfortunately, the $35,000 on hand to do the work falls far short of the money needed to complete the project. Gordon College has agreed to finish a section of trail leading to the boundary between the Woods and the college. R. B. Strong, Rimmer Environmental Consulting, and Hancock Associates have all agreed to perform some pro bono work. And the Committee has applied to the Community Preservation Committee in Manchester and its counterpart in Hamilton for equal sums to round out completion of the project. The project itself greatly reduces siltation into Round Pond and other bodies of water. It also impedes damage to trail side plant life and general erosion. Finally, the project makes the entire trail system open to year round use and more handicap friendly.

R. C. Smith, Chairman

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC has continued to meet on a monthly basis in 2006. The Committee has been working with the proponents, and managers, of the projects that were approved at Town Meeting last fall. The committee has also been working with citizens to develop new applications for funding for CPA projects and is in the process of reviewing applications prior to this spring's Town Meeting. The committee has the following nine members; Tom Catalano (Chair, Historic District Commission), Leigh Keyser (Vice-Chair, Housing Authority), Lindle Willnow (Secretary, Recreation Board), Chris Davis (At-Large), Bob Bullivant (Board of Selectmen), David Carey (Housing Partnership, At Large), Peter Clark (Planning Board), Peter Dana (Conservation Commission), Ray Whipple (At Large),

The following items were approved at Town Meeting:

- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $120,000 From FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Support and Preservation of the Hamilton Housing Authority Community Housing on Railroad Avenue
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $35,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund a Community Housing Coordinator Historic Preservation
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $65,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to repair the Town Hall Heating Systems and Domed Ceiling
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $6,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to repair Headstones in the Hamilton Cemetery
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $2,500 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to construct a plaque commemorating the burial site of Chief Masconomet
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $27,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to acquire conservation restrictions to protect the School Street Well
- ANNUAL REVENUES To reserve $31,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Open Space Reserve Fund Recreation
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $10,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for a feasibility study on new usages of the old Hamilton Library site, such as more Recreational opportunities and/or new Community Housing
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $4,000 From FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to repair drainage problems at the Patton Park Baseball Field Administration
- ANNUAL REVENUES To appropriate $25,000 from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to hire a Community Preservation Coordinator
- Anticipated CPA Revenues of $580,000 (including Estimated state match of $290,000)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Category	Amount	%
Community Housing	$ 155,000	26.70 %
Open Space	$ 58,000	10.00 %
Historic Preservation	$ 73,500	12.70 %
Recreation	$ 14,000	2.40 %
Administration	$ 25,000	4.30 %
Undedicated Reserve	$ 254,500	43.90 %

In 2007, the CPC hired an administrator, Christine Berry, to assist the committee in the implementation of the CPA and in the administration of the funded projects and applications for new projects. Ms. Berry is assisting the CPC in the review and public meeting process for the 2007 round of applications as well as coordinating the efforts of the CPC with other Town boards and committees. The CPC will hold public meetings, to review 2007 applications, on March 8 and March 15 at 7:30 PM.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Hamilton Conservation Commission's primary task is the administration and enforcement of the state Wetlands Protection Act (Ch. 131 §40) and the Town's Conservation By-Law, Chapter 17. The Commission also seeks to fulfill its mandate by funding environmental education programs in the regional school system and by organizing and publicizing various conferences and events that seek to protect open space and inform residents of the value of preservation of woodlands and scenic areas as well as trail access and management.

Conservation Commission jurisdiction and procedure:
The Commission's jurisdiction includes all proposed changes in land use which will occur within defined wetlands or within 100 feet of the defined edge of wetlands, or within 200 feet of the perennial streams and rivers within the borders of the Town. The Commission considers applications (known as "Requests for Determination" and also "Notices of Intent") for work in these areas and holds site walks to evaluate the conditions at the work area. The Commission then conducts public hearings or public meetings to decide if a permit (either a "Negative Determination" or an "Order of Conditions") shall issue. Once a project is completed, the Commission holds another site walk to establish that the project was finished in the same manner as it was originally proposed and that no damage to resource areas has occurred. A Certificate of Compliance is then issued and the process is complete. The Commission also investigates violations of the Wetlands Act and local Conservation By-Law and the Commission issues Enforcement Orders or Violation Notices if appropriate.

2006 Special Projects and Issues:
The Commission began preliminary consideration of the various issues involved in creation of a new storm water management by law, which is mandated on all Massachusetts municipalities by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The Commission worked closely with the Planning Board to determine an effective and efficient division of jurisdiction for the new bylaw in 2006.
The Commission is committed to presenting a bylaw, with the inclusion of low impact development features, to the Town at the annual Town Meeting in May 2007.

The Commission obtained a grant to purchase highly detailed, sophisticated and useful GIS software that will clearly assist the Commission as it pursues its goals in both wetlands protection and open space preservation.

The Commission began the review of a Town wide trail management plan to streamline review and approval of normal and routine maintenance of the extensive trail network in Hamilton. Many of Hamilton's trails wind their way through Commission jurisdiction and the continued repair of the network is crucial to maintain the value of this resource. In order to comply with state and local law, Commission review of trail work is often required and can be costly to applicants in terms of time and money spent on so-called soft costs. The Commission is hopeful that a comprehensive management plan can be adopted which will comply with all legal requirements and can serve as a model for other communities with similar issues. As 2007 opens, Sen. Tarr and Rep. Hill are directly involved in moving this project forward.

The Commission continued to work with local non-profit groups in addressing the ongoing beaver flooding issues in town. Water level control devices (known as beaver deceivers) continue to be installed in Hamilton. These devices, when installed properly, have negligible impact on beaver habitat and can substantially lower water levels. The Commission encourages landowners who have dams and are directly impacted by beaver flooding to contact the Commission office for direction on how to apply for permission to install a deceiver.

The Commission's Open Space Committee met regularly to review the needs of the Town relative to preservation of Open Space. The Committee continues to work towards revising the Hamilton Open Space Plan and they seek to have the revised plan finalized, approved and in place early in 2007.

Education Program

The Commission funded an Environmental Education program for the students in almost all grade levels in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. The program is designed and run by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and it is subject to in-depth review and amendment by the Commission annually. The Commission continues to enthusiastically support and promote this program.

2006 Filings and Other Regulatory Decisions

26	Requests for Determination
13	Orders of Conditions
4	Modifications or Amendments of Orders of Conditions
6	Enforcement Orders and Violation Notices
7	Extensions
9	Certificates of Compliance
1	Conservation Restriction Approved
3	Emergency Certification

Members and Staff (Term Expiration)

John Hamilton, Co-Chair (2009), Michele Stecyk, Co-Chair (2007), Virginia Cookson (2007), Robert Cronin (2007), Peter Dana (2009), Camilla Rich (2008), Sarah Getchell (2008), John Rhoads (associate member), John Hendrickson (associate member), James Hankin, Coordinator

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Hamilton Council on Aging had a busy and successful year serving the senior community. Council members, along with the assistance of dedicated volunteers, worked very hard to create a wide variety of program offerings. Hamilton seniors were able to choose from day trips to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the Wang Theatre, March Irish Show at Danversport Yacht Club, "Champions on Ice Show", Foxwoods, Bourne Scallop Festival, Amesbury Playhouse, Steele Hill Resort/On Golden Pond Cruise, Sanbornton, NH and Amtrak's "Downeaster" Portland, Maine day trip. We were also able to offer our second overnight trip to the White Mountain Hotel in North Conway, NH where Hamilton seniors thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Special events and educational forums were well attended and included; Hamilton Police Department "Fraud and Scams", senior cookout, Hamilton Assessors forum, Antique Appraisal Day, Bingo luncheons, our December Holiday Party, "History of Hamilton" forum, Vascular Disease Prevention screening, Hamilton-Wenham Senior Holiday Luncheon with Representative Brad Hill and Senator Bruce Tarr, Senior Financial Planning seminar, and the very popular student run buffet luncheons at the North Shore Technical Vocational High School. Our "Stay Healthy" series is very popular and continues to grow. A free Blood Pressure Clinic is held at the senior center on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10am – 12 noon. During the past year over 53 Hamilton seniors utilized the clinic on a regular basis. Barbara Rigol continues to volunteer her time and offer a Low Impact Exercise Class with a focus on balance. HATS OFF to these wonderful volunteers who help keep our Hamilton seniors healthy!!

Each December, the Council on Aging honors our resident senior citizens over the age of 90 by delivering holiday fruit baskets to their homes. This year, Hamilton Boy Scout Troop # 235 happily agreed to assist in the delivery of 32 baskets and we were very grateful. Presently the Council on Aging shares usage of the former Hamilton Library. During the past year, Council members focused on developing our weekly Wednesday Open House Program (10am – 12 noon) that now averages 30-40 seniors in attendance every week. This is a casual get together time where seniors can socialize, plays cards and games, enjoy a cup of coffee, attend a special program, obtain elder issues resource information and register for upcoming activities. Many Hamilton seniors have commented that they look forward to attending every week and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere that Council members have worked to provide in this shared space.

We continue to focus on communication to our senior community by publishing and mailing a bi-monthly senior newsletter to over 800 head of household residents. In addition, the Council on Aging maintains an office at the former Hamilton Library with a 24-hour answering service. Telephone calls that we receive range from program requests, transportation needs, health insurance issues, Meals on Wheels referrals, home health services, medical equipment rental and housing information. The Hamilton Council on Aging has always functioned with the efforts of many volunteers. As the program continues to grow and serve the needs of our many senior residents, the Council on Aging welcomes the ideas, suggestions and active participation of all Hamilton seniors.

Lindsey D. Snavely, Senior Services Coordinator

HAMILTON WENHAM COUNCIL ON AGING VAN SERVICE

The Hamilton-Wenham Council on Aging handicap-accessible van has completed its third highly successful year of operation. Ridership has significantly increased with impressive usage being reported each month.

During the year 2006, we provided over 3,000 rides to Hamilton and Wenham seniors. The van was also used to transport seniors to several trips, including a trip for the Hamilton COA to the Amesbury Playhouse: Wenham Council on Aging Ice Cream Social, Topsfield Fair, and voting polls. Many seniors use the service to go to their medical appointments. which may include rides to Beverly Hospital, Hunt Hospital; Cummings Center and Ipswich. Other rides include non–medical trips to the hairdressers, grocery shopping, church, crafts at Enon Village, banks and train stations.

A survey mailed to all van riders, was done in August 2006; there was an impressive 50% return rate. The survey confirmed what the drivers hear - this invaluable service is a lifeline to them, especially during our long New England winters, when driving can be quite difficult.

During the month of October 2005, we welcomed Jeff Hyde, on a part time basis. Jeff was originally hired in February 2005, as a back up van driver. Jeff's support and enthusiasm to the van program prompted us to bring Jeff on as the van dispatcher. Jeff works well with the clients and the van drivers alike, offering us his good sense of humor and his relentless hours he devotes to the program, most often on his own free time.

The following Mission Statement is deeply rooted in a philosophy common among and shared by the staff at the COA: "The purpose of the Hamilton-Wenham Van program is to provide transportation services that will not only enrich the lives of our senior population but allow them to maintain a sense of independence as well."

Hamilton-Wenham COA Van Program Advisory Committee

Mimi Fanning, Hamilton COA
Jack Hauck, Wenham COA
Sue Bannon, Wenham, SeniorCare Representative
Ann Minois, Hamilton, SeniorCare Representative
Nancy Spofford, Wenham

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Reid
Hamilton-Wenham COA Van Supervisor

THE HAMILTON-WENHAM CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council awarded $5,600 in state funds for the year 2006 to local artists and performers in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. The 6 member Council strives to select events that will enrich and appeal to all sectors of the community. There were 21 applications for grants this year. Whole or partial funding was given to 12 applicants:

❖ Cantemus Chamber Chorus	The Trumpet Shall Sound!
❖ Dancers Courageous	Legends Program Buker School
❖ Friends of Hamilton-Wenham Preschool	Are You My Mother? North Shore Music Theater
❖ H/W Public Library	Bonaparte's Family Magic Concert
❖ H/W Public Library	History of Manga
❖ H/W Public Library	Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey
❖ Gregory Maichack	Workshop: The Art of Pastel
❖ North Shore Youth Symphony	NYSO's Family Chamber Music Concert
❖ Sunday's in Patton Park	Summer Concert Series
❖ The Open Road Theater	Les Miserable
❖ Veterans For Peace	North Shore Peace Poetry Contest
❖ Wenham Museum	The Day Wenham Museum Went Wild

On November 15, 2006, the Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council voted on and granted $10,702 for 18 grant applications for the year 2007.

Residents of Hamilton and Wenham with an interest in the arts may want to consider applying for a position on the Council. Council members serve three-year terms and are appointed by the Boards of Selectmen. There are positions open on the Board for the coming year.

Meredith Gisness, Chairperson

Council Members:
Lorrie Berry, Roberta Perkins, Elizabeth Roberts, Mary Buntin, Heidi Blaser,

The diversity, in knowledge and background, of our DPW employees has allowed the Public Works Department to assist many Town departments and entities in multiple ways. This has saved the taxpayers considerable tax dollars throughout the year, as well as savings seen daily within the department.

HIGHWAY DIVISION

ROAD PROGRAM

The DPW received $154,328.00 from the Massachusetts Highway Department, under Chapter 90 road monies, and completed the following projects:

Moulton Street (final phase) - total reclamation of 1 ½ mile of road.

Asphalt sidewalk replacement was completed on parts of Naples Road, Margaret Road, Railroad Avenue and Willow Street.

Concrete sidewalk replacement was completed on Railroad Avenue. A small section of a handicap ramp was corrected on Bay Road in front of the Talbot's store.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Annual bids for Catch Basin Cleaning and Street Sweeping went out to bid. 757 catch basins were cleaned and 36 miles of roadway swept.

The torrential rains of May's 100-year storm caused numerous flooding problems, property damage and road closures. The DPW spent the next six months cleaning, repairing and replacing damaged drainage and road infrastructure.

Damage to our infrastructure included the Highland Street Bridge (still closed), the Winthrop Street Bridge (partially opened), replacement of nine main culverts, seven catch basins, numerous eroded areas and tons of debris clean up. The Town spent over 2,100 man-hours and $90,000.00 to complete these tasks and we still have to make repairs this spring on the Winthrop Street Bridge, Gardner Street Culvert and correct erosion by Beck's Pond.

The Town received over $150,000.00 in FEMA (Federal) reimbursements and awaits over $40,000.00 in MEMA (State) reimbursements. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Highway Department was generous enough to assist our community and take over the stabilization and repairs to the Highland Street bridge. This historic, triple arched, field stone bridge was totally undermined during the floods and would have certainly been lost if Mass. Highway did not get involved. We owe a great deal of thanks to Representative Brad Hill, Senator Bruce Tarr, Govern Mitt Romney's Office and the Mass. Highway Department for their efforts in this endeavor.

Snow removal and sanding continue to go smoothly during inclement weather conditions due to the dedication of our DPW personnel. Some of our fleet should be replaced if we want to continue responding to storms effectively. We've postponed replacing several pieces of equipment due to budget cuts and this year isn't any different. There is a need to replace two pick-up trucks but were asked to replace only one so we're asking for the publics support at the upcoming Town Meeting. The DPW is increasingly using more and more salt to clear the roads due to public demands. This is expensive and detrimental to the environment. We continue to attempt to balance out the needs for public safety, financial accountability and protecting the environment. Several areas in Town have been posted with "No Salt" and "Low Salt" signs to remind our operators of high salt sensitive areas of our community.

The DPW has had a busy year with tree work. We worked on 89 trees utilizing both in-house and contracted labor. A large percentage of the Town's trees are maturing at the same time; as a result the pace of work needed is escalating. There are also various diseases that shorten the life of trees such as Elms, Maples, Ash and Hemlocks that make up a large portion of our tree inventory. The DPW was unable to replace any of the trees we removed due to funding problems. Hopefully, we can plant several next year.

The opening of the landfill to residents for the disposal of brush, organic and inorganic debris continues to be in demand. We have numerous residents taking advantage of these weekend drop-offs. The demand is so high we are scheduling the first Saturday each month on a regular basis, with the exception of December through March. There has been such a good response from the community that we delivered seven truckloads of chipped brush to Brick End Farm, a compost facility located on Highland Street.

PARK DIVISION

Patton Park continues to be the main focus of playing fields for the sport teams of the various Joint Recreation Programs. The continuous use of Patton Park places a heavy burden on the condition of the park but with our staff's diligence and materials and labor financed through the Joint Recreation's funds we continue to keep it in excellent shape.

Although the DPW has not had the time or funding this year, we continue to improve School Street and Cutler Park. This helps relieve Patton Park's "wear and tear" and makes School Street and Cutler Park much more appealing for neighborhood and public use. The Regional High School did sponsor a "Give Back Day" where high school students gave some of their time to the community. One of the advantages of this was Cutler Park was raked and cleaned up. The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Committee was also very generous and bought two new pieces of playground equipment for Patton Park and Fairhaven Field.

CEMETERY DIVISION

The Cemetery remains in great shape. The Cemetery Foreman kept busy mowing well into what is normally planting and pruning season. Our fight with the Japanese beetle grubs continues with positive results using biological means and not chemical pesticides. It is this type of care and dedication that illustrates the fine condition of the cemetery.

The Cemetery conducted the following business:

Sale of Lots:	$ 3,900.00
Perpetual Care:	$ 4,750.00
Openings and Foundations:	$ 31,160.00

The Cemetery Department has also created a site set aside solely for cremation burials. This type of lot has become increasingly popular. Grave lots are available to residents or long time residents at the following rates. If you would wish to purchase a lot contact the Department of Public Works at their office.

Cremation Lot:	$ 450.00 (6)
Standard Single Grave Lot:	$ 450.00
Standard Four Grave Lot:	$ 1,450.00

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Once again, I would like to thank the residents for their support at Town Meeting in allowing us to upgrade and maintain our fleet of vehicles. Although our purchases have been reduced due to budget cuts, the department was able to replace our small, one-ton dump truck. This will allow us to continue our daily tasks and maintain the roads during snowstorms by minimizing breakdowns.
The Town Mechanic continues to repair our fleet in a professional and expedient manner.

Our fuel system continues to pass its daily monitoring. The computerized leak detection and fuel-dispensing system is working well. The ability to buy fuel in bulk and "play" the market has allowed us to purchase fuel at a great savings, enabling us to keep our fuel-purchasing budget down while fuel prices fluctuate.

SANITATION

The Town continues its curbside pick-up contract with Hiltz Disposal Services which includes rubbish, recycling and leaf pick-up for our Town.

Our "Pay as You Throw" metals, tires, TV's, computer monitors, fluorescent lights and refrigerator programs have been very successful this year. The DPW was able to recycle these materials at no cost to the general taxpayer, as the individuals utilizing this service pay for it. We encourage our no cost drop-off of cardboard and nickel/cadmium batteries at Town Hall. There is also a drop-off point at the Town Clerk's office, Building Inspector's Office or DPW Office for mercury thermostats or any mercury-containing product at no cost and a thermometer exchange program where mercury thermometers are exchanged for electronic read thermometers. It is important to recycle/reuse as much as possible, both for an environmental and economical standpoint. It's the habits that we practice and adopt that will help us recycle more in the future. Recycling bins for curbside pickup are available at Town Hall for new residents or new participants wishing to get involved with the recycling program.

Our refuse disposal and recycling figures for 2006 were as follows:

	2005	**2006**
Municipal Household Waste:	3,314	3,226
Commingled Curbside Recycling:	607	623
Leaf Collection and Composting:	70	75
All Metals:	56	55
Tires:	277	583
Household Hazardous Waste:	74	0
Corrugated Cardboard:	13	22
TV and Computer Monitors:	321	568
Nickel/ Cadmium Batteries – 5 gallon pail	1	1
Mercury – 5 gallon pail	1	1
Car Batteries	37	5

With help and enthusiasm from the Town's newly created Recycling Committee we have greatly increased our collection of bulk cardboard. The Town receives $20.00 a ton credit from our recycling handlers, due to this increase and the efforts of our residents in keeping our cardboard dumpster free of rubbish.

WATER DIVISION

The Gordon "Tiny" Thompson Filtration Plant is running well and is producing several hundred thousand gallons of clean water per day. The water leaving the plant is almost free of all metals, which has greatly improved the water quality potential in town. There is still work to be done within the distribution system, such as hydrant flushing, main installation and main replacement to improve the water that is supplied to some parts of town. In general, our water quality continues to improve. Our trial in drilling a replacement well for our old Caisson Well was not productive. We continue our search for a water source outside the Ipswich River Basin but drilling test wells at the Town Beach on Chebacco Rd. did not prove to be beneficial.

Our pumpage is up from last year but our per capita usage is at 55 gallons per day per person, still under the DEP's guideline of 65. The Town adopted a new water restriction by-law not allowing lawn watering during the summer days. There were only three incidences needed to be addressed last summer. This illustrates the commitment our community has to protect its well fields, sub-basins and the Ipswich River Basin.

We encourage our customers to conserve wherever possible. This practice is appropriate environmentally as well as being financially advantageous.

2002	209,173,000 = Avg. GPD/PP: 69.9	Highest daily usage:	1,102,000 on June 16
2003	239,777,000 = Avg. GPD/PP: 59	Highest daily usage:	820,000 on Aug. 26
2004	229,647,000 = Avg. GPD/PP: 50	Highest daily usage:	950,000 on June 24
2005	253,989,000 = Avg. GPD/PP: 60	Highest daily usage:	1,132,000 on July 26
2006	238,837,000 = Avg. GPD/PP: 55	Highest daily usage:	978,000 on July 25

GPD/PP = Gallons per day / per person / using census numbers.

Hydrant flushing remains a priority and as anticipated was accomplished this spring and fall. We will try reducing our nighttime flushing to one-time per year and conduct daytime flushing in some parts of Town as water quality is increasing. Although the filtration plant is producing clean water, we must continue to perform this task until the mains are free from iron and manganese deposits. Thereafter, we will flush dead end mains annually to assure essential water circulation and quality.

The Water Department replaced, installed, and or repaired 15 hydrants, 23 services and 52 meters. Work is still in process with Manchester by the Sea to tie into their main on Chebacco Road to allow for one more intertown tie in. This will enable greater fire protection to our residents on that end of town. We are still working on replacing the 2" and 4" mains on Elliot and Pleasant Street with a 6" main and hydrant this fall. We hope to complete this project by next summer.

The Water Division thanks the residents in Town for your support in allowing us to install water meter usage radio readers on your homes. We have installed over 1400 to date and once this is completed it will save us hundreds of man-hours in reading meters. These types of projects allow us to address manpower hours needed in complying with new State regulations and various system repairs without having to annually raise the water rates.

Our Water Division field personnel, as well as other DPW employees, continue to meet the needs for the ever-changing technical field of water treatment by taking exams, attending seminars and receiving advanced Drinking Water Certification Certificates.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven T. Kenney, Director Public Works

HAMILTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Hamilton Selectmen established the Economic Development Committee (EDC) in 2004 in accordance with the recommendations of the Master Plan update completed in that year and the request of the Hamilton Planning Board. Among the Selectmen's charges to the EDC was to initiate work on ways that Hamilton could modify its land use policies so as to permit non-single family residential projects (like age-restricted and commercial development) and thus expand its tax base and increase its property tax revenues without adding school-age children to the town schools.

In response, the EDC undertook three initiatives: (1) the development of a planned alternative development (PAD) zoning bylaw; (2) study and review of impediments to further downtown development; and (3) consideration of the re-development of the Hamilton landfill off of Chebacco Road.

Planned Alternative Development Bylaw: During 2005 the proposed bylaw (known as "PAD") was created and discussed with all town committees and boards, as well as interested town residents. In accordance with the motion at the May 2005 Annual Town meeting, the EDC forwarded the bylaw to the Planning Board for revisions. The Planning Board has tabled the PAD By-law while focusing on the Senior Housing By-law.

Enhanced Downtown Business District (DBD) Development: The initial and ongoing objective of the EDC's efforts in the DBD is to promote development in this area, which is only 0.27% of the area in Hamilton, in order to bring net revenue to the Town of Hamilton. Since commercial property costs the town about $0.30 per $1.00 of tax revenue, the EDC's emphasis is on commercial development.

A March 21, 2005 report by Lombardo Associates, Inc. on the cost and technical feasibility of providing wastewater treatment and disposal for the entire business district led the EDC to conclude that such a large system was uneconomic. The review of further development to the downtown business district has led to the conclusion that adequate septage disposal and parking remain as impediments in the Bay Road and Railroad Avenue blocks. In 2006 the Selectmen commissioned a brief study by Lombardo Associates, Inc. for the cost of a smaller wastewater treatment and disposal system to serve properties along Railroad Avenue and the block south of Railroad Avenue. The report suggested reasonably high costs for such a system, but preliminary conversations with several business owners suggested some interest in expanding their properties and using a common wastewater system even if wastewater treatment costs were as high as the report suggested.

The committee will meet with all the local businesses along Railroad Avenue and the block south of Railroad Avenue to assess their interest in adding to their buildings, a combined local septage system(s) and acquisition of land for additional parking. In doing this the EDC will explore various options for dealing with wastewater treatment and parking to allow further business development in this area. The EDC will also be working with the various Hamilton land use boards and the Board of Health to further develop the DBD.

Re-development of Hamilton Landfill: The study and review of possible re-development of the Hamilton landfill is underway by the ten-member Hamilton Landfill Steering Committee, appointed by the Selectmen in the summer of 2005.

Thanks go to Peter Gourdeau, Peter Twining, Carl Swanson and David Lemons for their capable work and tireless contributions to the EDC during 2006. Peter Twining will be stepping down from the EDC since moving to Ipswich and the EDC members want to especially thank Peter for his hard work and leadership.

Respectively submitted,

Bill Gisness, Chair

HAMILTON-WENHAM EMERGENCY CENTER

As we approach the forty-seventh anniversary of the Hamilton-Wenham Emergency Center, it is a time to look back at accomplishments as well as forward to set goals for the future.

Dial tone was coming to Hamilton and Wenham and the telephone operators would not be available to take the police and fire calls. The Selectmen and volunteer Robert Porter had the foresight to hire civilian dispatchers and form a regional dispatch center in 1960. This was a first in the area and is a model most communities have followed.

The Emergency Center in 1960 had paper logs, separate microphone and radios for police and fire frequencies and telephones. If one of those original dispatchers came in today, she would face numerous computer screens that function as the log (computer aided dispatch), page the fire departments, open and close doors and has eight radio frequencies on a single monitor. There was no 9-1-1 in 1960 but today the number is nationwide and the system shows the name and address of the caller. There is a procedure in place that allows the dispatcher to communicate with a caller who is unable to speak and a TTY (teletypewriter) for callers who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The dispatchers of yesterday had on the job training. They did the job, and did it exceptionally well, without the benefit of the technology we have today. Currently we have a five week academy for dispatchers and lots of continuing education classes to keep up with the challenges we face as a society.

Throughout the years of improved technology, the essential job has stayed the same. We are here to serve the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham. The range of calls goes from helping locate a lost dog to sending police and fire to life threatening emergencies. The other constant is the support from the communities to fund the budget so that we have state of the art equipment. One factor that increases each year is the number of calls that are handled by the Emergency Center. In 2006, 26,632 calls were logged.

During the late fall, several meetings were held to discuss establishing a regional operations center for nineteen communities. A report was done by a consulting firm laying out the criteria for such a center. Many questions need to be answered before committing to such a project and the Selectmen will be studying the issues and will make recommendations to the towns.

Looking forward to 2007, the Emergency Center will be moving to a new facility. We will have brand new 9-1-1 equipment that will not only give the name and address of the caller but also locate the caller on a map. Approximately $250,000 of equipment is being installed, at no cost to the towns. A training fund has been established by the state and grants are available to each city and town for dispatch training. Everyone will attend training, under this grant, during 2007. A title change from dispatcher to Police/Fire Signal Operator is going back to an old title in the Massachusetts statutes.

We invite everyone to visit the Emergency Center and see what we do on a daily basis. We can schedule tours for school and scout groups with an appointment.

Anne Marie Cullen

FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Until a week prior to the Annual Town Meeting, the FY07 Town Budget included a Town Operating Override of $140,000. However, the following events permitted the Budget to be submitted without a Town Operating Override: a reduction in medical insurance cost $52,000, reduction in Department expenses $30,000 and transfer $79,000 from the Stabilization Fund.

At the 2006 Annual Town Meeting, the Town approved:

- A Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Budget of $12,991,660, an increase of $635,851, including a $203,397 Override, or 5.15% over the prior year.
- Warrant Articles for the purchase of a new ambulance ($135,000) and a new DPW pick-up truck ($25,800).
- Borrowing an additional $250,000 for completion of the Public Safety Building.
- A new position of Finance Director in recognition of the increased financial complexities we face, the need to analyze new initiatives in greater depth, and the Selectmen's desire to have more time dedicated to finding opportunities for more efficient Town operation.

In May 2006, Hamilton faced a need to finance repair of the May Flood damage. To keep the cost of repair at a minimum, Hamilton used Deficit Financing to do the immediate repairs, in anticipation of Federal Emergency Management ("FEMA") and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA") reimbursement for a total of 87.5% of the cost of repair. The first phase of the repair work and emergency response by the Department of Public Works, Fire and Police Departments was completed at a cost of $160,000. The Town has received FEMA reimbursement of $120,000 and is awaiting approximately $20,000 from MEMA.

May flood damage repair to the Gardner Street/ Winthrop Street Bridge/Culvert has not started. It is expected to cost $305,000 and the Town anticipates using Deficit Financing for this work. FEMA and MEMA are expected to reimburse the Town for 87.5% of the approved repair costs.

The Town negotiated jointly with the Town of Ipswich to have the State fund the repair of the Highland Street Bridge which could cost much as $2,400,000. Had the State of Massachusetts not agreed to fund the repair cost, Hamilton's share would have been one-half of the repair cost.

Financial challenges facing the Town include financing future capital costs to maintain our buildings, rebuilding our unallocated reserves, ever increasing health insurance costs and last but not least the required implementation of GASB Statement No. 45 in FY09. GASB 45 establishes the standards for the measurement, recognition, and display in our financial statements of Other Post-employment Benefits such as health insurance.

Submitted by the following Finance Committee Members:

Arthur J. Oberheim
Jane Deaver Prince
Alexander A. Shaw
Daniel J. Bukkhegyi

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Hamilton Fire Department has the following apparatus available for service:

ENGINE 1	1996 Pierce Saber 1250 gpm pumper w/Boat
ENGINE 2	1985 International S-1800/Ranger 1000 gpm pumper
ENGINE 3	2004 Pierce Saber 1500 gpm pumper
LADDER 4	1980 American LaFrance 100' Aerial Ladder
SQUAD 5	2006 Ford F-550 (4X4)/Greenwood Forestry Truck 100 gpm MOBILE AIR UNIT
SQUAD 6	1994 Ford E-350 Mobile Air Supply Van
SQUAD 7	1995 Ford F-250 Pick-up (4X4)

INCIDENTS 2006

Fire	59
Rescue Call & EMS	205
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	84
Service Call	77
Good Intent Call	43
False Call	195
Special Type/Complaint	6
Severe weather	625
TOTAL	**1,294**

This was a busy year for the Fire Department. We started off with a dry spring. May 13 started the busiest 9 days in the history of the Department. We did many flooding calls that week, as well as (2) structure fires and many other calls. Many of our firefighters worked over 90 hours in 8 days. The town did get reimbursed by FEMA and the State for labor and equipment costs.

We have (2) Firefighters certified to do car seat installations. They did 254 installations last year.

Firefighter David Dolan completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Call Recruit Program that was held in Newbury and passed the Firefighter I/II Certification.

The new Public Safety Building was started in June. This will give us room for all our fire apparatus and make for a safer working environment. We appreciate all the work the Public Safety Building Committee did to get this project passed and especially the support of the voters.

Squad 5 got a new Ford F-550 chassis in January. The old body was refurbished, much of the work was done in house, which saved the town about $60,000. Squad 5 went in service May 14, 2006.

The Fire Department currently has (4) fulltime firefighters, who work during the day. The Department relies on call firefighters for sufficient help and to man the weekend shifts. This is a large savings to the town. It is getting more difficult to recruit call firefighters, because of the time commitment. We are always looking for call firefighters.

The Fire Department is always there to help the citizens of Hamilton.

Philip W. Stevens, Jr., Fire Chief

THE HAMILTON FOUNDATION

On May 2nd, 2005, the town of Hamilton authorized the Board of Selectman to establish a municipal board to be known as The Hamilton Foundation (THF). THF was created to help meet the unexpected, urgent, short term needs of Hamilton residents due to job loss, death, divorce or catastrophic illness. THF was not intended to replace traditional governmental welfare programs or social service organizations. It directs people to those programs when appropriate. Particular assistance includes the payment of a bill or the provision of a scholarships or gift certificate.

The inspiration came from concerned citizens who have personally seen the urgent need for economic support experienced by fellow townspeople. It is a common misconception that Hamilton is a universally affluent community. Severe economic and personal distress, both short-term and sometimes long-term, does exist here.

A 5 member board was established for THF as well as the election of a coordinator. The coordinator receives calls from residents, asks particular questions to determine need, and in a confidential manner, shares necessary information with the board in order for the latter to make a decision about how to help the resident. The board meets monthly and is in contact by phone and email in between meetings. If the payment of a bill is agreed upon by the board for a resident, that resident is asked to white-out his/her name from the bill and is given a number for purposes of confidentiality. That resident then sends the bill to our P.O. Box at Town Hall and the bill is paid directly to the vendor.

On May 2nd, the Board of Selectman authorized the transfer of $6, 331.71 from the Maxell Norman Trust to The Hamilton Foundation.

In October 2005, $8,350 was received in revenue as a result of one grant and solicitations. The Hamilton Wenham Business Council gave THF a grant that was used to create a brochure. This grant was supplemented by EBSCO publishing and Barbara Hanna, a Graphic Designer who donated her expertise.

Since November 5th, 2005, we have received calls from 26 residents and paid bills for 17. These bills included electric, heat and phone bills. One payment was made to The Hamilton Housing Authority.

From May, 2005 to June of 2006:

Total revenue	14,681.71
Total expenses	2,511.89
Fund	12,169.82

From July of 2006 to December 2006:

Total revenue	3,536.00
Total expenses	1,683.00
Current Fund	14,023.00

HAMILTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

It has been a fairly quiet year for the Board. The state funding finally was increased to former levels, so several projects have been finally done. We are now in the process of obtaining more funds from the Community Preservation Committee to continue with replacement of all the kitchenette units.

Due to local and state rules the process to obtain these funds has taken much longer than the board had made plans for doing the project.

It is the board's hope that further discussions with town officials will speed up this process and earmarked funds will be available shortly, so that the board can order up the new replacement units and hire contractors to install same.

The board is also continuing to search the town for possible open space that some more units could be built. Our total of affordable units is very low and we need to increase the total so we can reach the state level of ten percent.

Members of the board are, Leon Purington, Robert Poole, Jay Burnham and Clarence Trepanier.

Leigh M Keyser, chairman

HAMILTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

The mission of the Hamilton Housing Partnership (the HPC) is to increase the availability of affordable housing in Hamilton, as described in the Hamilton Master plan. The HPC met each Monday at 7:30 pm in Town Hall and will continue to do so in 2007.

The following lists the HPC's accomplishments and activities in 2006.

- The Committee contracted with James Hexter a financial analyst specializing in the economics of affordable housing. Mr. Hexter created a financial tool to help the committee model affordable properties/projects. This model allowed us to conclude that a 100% rental (affordable) property would need to have 33 units to "break even" economically (including a $1 million contribution from community preservation funds). We will use this model to assess the potential for actual projects as we go forward.
- The Committee is in contract negotiations with Olson Lewis, a local architect. Under the terms of the contract, Olson Lewis will create a conceptual design of the previously mentioned 33 unit property in various configurations, to help the town assess the feasibility of such a project.
- The Committee contracted with Lisa Perry-Wood, to serve as a grant writer. Ms. Wood will help the committee identify and hopefully acquire additional funds to meet its mission.
- The committee finalized the "Local Preference" policy/by-law that will be used to allocate affordable housing units to qualified applicants. The policy is currently undergoing legal review.
- The committee identified a lot for a potential affordable single family home. If the lot is deemed "build able", we intend to seek proposals from non-profit developers such as Habitat for Humanity.

In 2007, we will continue to explore both small and large scale projects and sources of funds to finance these projects.

Members: Peter Britton, David Carey, chairman, Dan Gaquin, Bill Gavin, Fred Mills

INSPECTION DEPARTMENTS

BUILDING INSPECTOR

There were a total of 282 permits issued for 2006.

Among these permits were: 2 houses demolished and re-built, and 1 new single family dwelling. This department also issued permits for the construction of the new Public Safety Building, The Fellowship Hall at the First Congregational Church and the first 2 permits for the Carriage House Junction 40B development. The rest of the permits issued include: additions, renovations, garages/barns, sheds, non-residential renovations, in-ground and above ground pools, porches/decks, siding/windows/roofing, demolitions, signs and tents.

Charles Brett, Inspector of Buildings

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

225 total permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions and renovations, garages/barns plus new/upgraded services, pools, alarms, boilers, septic pumps and miscellaneous permits.

Robert B. Brown, Jr., Electrical Inspector

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

133 total plumbing permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions, garages/barns plus hot water tanks, backflow preventers, floor drains, water piping and other miscellaneous fixtures.

William C. Thomas, Jr., Plumbing Inspector

GAS INSPECTOR

126 total gas permits issued

The total permits issued include new dwellings, additions, garages/barns plus fireplace inserts, ranges, heating boilers, furnaces, water heaters, dryers, direct vent heaters, pool heaters, and other miscellaneous fixtures.

I wish to express my appreciation to all I have come in contact with for their cooperation during the performance of my duties.

William C. Thomas, Jr., Gas Inspector

LANDFILL STEERING COMMITTEE

As reported in 2005, the Hamilton Board of Selectmen appointed this Committee in that year to study and review possible re-development of the Hamilton landfill off of Chebacco Road in Hamilton. The Committee has ten members, including representatives of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health, Conservation Committee, Board of Selectmen, Economic Development Committee and residents located near the Hamilton Landfill. The Committee's work commenced in mid 2005 and interim reports have been made periodically to the Board of Selectmen and to the 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

2006: The Committee has met monthly during the year. Among the matters completed were meetings with officials from the Towns of Manchester and Essex, the Manchester/Essex Conservation Land Trust, and Gordon College to understand their concerns with the possible re-development of the landfill and future plans (if any) for land in their town adjacent to the site and Pine Street in Manchester. Further, the Committee met (together with the town's environmental consulting engineer and DPW Director) with representatives the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to discuss their concerns presently with the possible site re-development, associated further closure, and the environmental testing and well sampling now underway at the landfill. Concurrently, possible grant funding sources have been researched and three relevant to this project have been identified. This funding, if received, would be largely applied to funding a professional market and site re-use study of the landfill. The outcome of this work would help the Committee shape its recommendation to the Selectmen, town land use boards and committees, and the citizens as to economically viable future uses for the site.

2007: The Committee has laid out a calendar for 2007 and succeeding years for this matter. Under this timetable the first priority for 2007 is to apply for, and secure, grant funding for the market and re-use study and related environmental impact, traffic and infrastructure evaluation. All of this must be understood before any final proposal can be brought to the Board of Selectmen and town voters. Once awarded grant funding, the Committee will, together with the Selectmen, complete the RFP process to engage professional assistance with this work.

Further, the Committee will be meeting periodically during the year with the town boards and committees regarding conceptual ideas and plans for the landfill. Meetings with neighbors and Chebacco Road residents are also planned. The Committee feels strongly that continuous communications with town officials and residents is critical. In this same vein, further meetings with the Towns of Essex and Manchester and Gordon College will be completed.

The Committee is hopeful that by the end of 2007 at least two rounds of quarterly test well data will be available from the ongoing water sampling at the site, grant funding for the market and re-use study will be in hand and the RFP for this work will have been published, if not awarded.

Finally, the Committee wants to thank Peter Twining, who was the chair of the committee from inception through fall 2006 when he moved to Ipswich, for his work and time. The list of Committee members appears below, I thank them for their work on this matter. If you have questions, please contact any of them.

Members:

David Kerr, Chair, William Bowler, William Gisness, Jack Lawrence, Betsy Spang. Tom Spang, Evelyn Shuman, Peter Twining, Winkie Whitman

PLANNING BOARD

Organization: Evelyn Shuman was elected to a five year term at the May elections. Marc Johnson remained as Chair, and Susie Richey as Vice-Chair. Marcie Ricker was appointed as Associate Member for Special Permits by the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board for a two year term. Jean Nelson is the Planning Coordinator, and is the appointed representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

Members of the Planning Board also serve on other committees as Planning Board representatives: Peter Clark is on the Community Preservation Committee, Evelyn Shuman represents the Planning Board on the Landfill Steering Committee, and David Santomenna is the Chair of the Senior Housing Working Group.

Approval Not Required Plans
..265/299/325 Bay Road, lot line reconfiguration for Public Safety Building, no additional lots created
..1 Alexander Way, 74/86 Meyer Road, one additional lot created
..400/402/404 Bridge Street, lot line reconfiguration, no additional lots created
..6 Blackbrook Road, two additional lots proposed. The Planning Board voted not to endorse the plan.
..866 Bay Road, 81L plan where two dwelling units predated zoning, one additional lot created
..340 Bridge Street and vacant lot, no additional lots created

Definitive Subdivision Plans
340 Bridge Street – a Modification to a Definitive Subdivision Plan of 1979 was filed to relocate a portion of the roadway which serves three lots.

Site Plan Review
For Site Plan Review, the Planning Board reviewed each application below, and considered input from town officials, departments, and residents. As required by the Zoning Bylaw, the Board made recommendations to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

264 Bay Road, renovations to existing retail shop
265 Bay Road, Public Safety Building, to amend previous Site Plan Review approval in order to reduce cost
537 Highland Street, Pingree School, for renovations to ice rink
15 Walnut Road, Hamilton Shopping Center, to revise the number of retail units
265 Bay Road, Public Safety Building, to review a condition of approval
15 Walnut Road, Hamilton Shopping Center, renovations for a new restaurant
2 Surrey Lane, review of a proposed stable

Special Permits
400/402/404/416 Bridge Street, Common Driveway Application, Section VI.12.c. The Special Permit was granted with conditions.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments
At the Annual Town Meeting in May, voters approved the following:

..An Accessory Apartment bylaw, Section V.A.11.e.4.
..An Amendment to Section VI.H.3.a. of Site Plan Review, to require additional copies and an electronic copy of a submittal.
..An amendment to the Elder Housing Special District, Section V.E., was referred back to the Planning Board for further study.
..A Citizens' Petition to rezone a parcel of land at 350 and 354 Highland Street to an Elder Housing Special District was withdrawn.

General Activities

During 2006, the Planning Board undertook many activities which continued the efforts of Master Plan Implementation. In January and February, the Board published a series of articles about Accessory Apartments, in order to make the residents aware of the upcoming Accessory Apartment bylaw. Input from residents was requested, and approximately 15 residents e-mailed comments and responses, all of which were supportive. Accessory Apartments are considered a "smart growth" form of housing, and such a bylaw was recommended in the Master Plan.

The Board also drafted amendments to the Elder Housing Special District bylaw, and proposed an article at Town Meeting. Revision of the existing bylaw, an alternative to single family housing, and a bylaw which would have a positive impact on tax revenue, were all Master Plan recommendations. The proposed bylaw was referred back to the Planning Board for further study.

In May and July, the Planning Board convened two All-Board meetings to discuss senior housing. It was decided to form a working group to study various topics which were determined at the July All-Board meeting, and to give input to the Planning Board on these topics. The topics were: scale and compatibility; net revenue/positive cash flow; drainage, water recharge, septic (environmental impacts); open space preservation, appropriate to the significance of the open space; nature of ownership; marketable rates; definition of senior – eligibility; location preferences; design criteria (including variety of size units); procedural issues (Special Permit Granting Authority & threshold for Town Meeting vote); minimum lot size, and preference for Hamilton seniors.

The Senior Housing Working Group met eight times in the fall of 2006, and meetings addressed the various topics. Guest speakers were invited to discuss items such as water and wastewater issues, condominiums and housing cooperatives, and the developer's point of view. Members of the Senior Housing Working Group are: David Carey, Housing Partnership Committee; Tom Catalano, At-Large Member; John Hamilton, Conservation Commission; Richard Hayes, At-Large Member; Betsy Hopkins, Open Space Committee; Diane Meibaum, Zoning Board of Appeals; David Santomenna, Planning Board; John Serafini, At-Large Member; and Peter Twining, Economic Development Committee. Susan Lawrence of the Agricultural Commission is an Advisory Delegate. The group worked diligently through the fall to discuss issues relative to senior housing, and the Planning Board is very grateful to the members for their hard work and thoughtful input. The group will continue to meet in 2007.

The Commonwealth Capital Application was submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the second year. The score has been raised from 45 to 56 points, which indicates good effort on the part of the town to implement water conservation measures, "smart growth" principles, and other measures which are recommended to address sustainable land use and planning principles.

The Planning Board continued working with other departments toward the implementation of a Geographic Information System for mapping. Utilizing funding granted in 2005 from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for a Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant, the Board contracted for Stormwater mapping, and consultation on a Stormwater Management Bylaw and Low Impact Development Techniques and regulations. The Stormwater Management Bylaw is being drafted, and a Low Impact Development Handbook is available.

The Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of an abbreviated schedule in the summer. All meetings are open, and the public is welcome to attend.

Submitted by:
Rick Mitchell, 2008, David Santomenna, 2010, Evelyn Shuman, 2011, Peter Clark, 2007, Marc Johnson, 2008
Dorothy Stookey, 2009, Susie Richey, 2009

POLICE DEPARTMENT

I am proud to report that the Hamilton Police Department has completed a very successful year dedicated to the professional service of this community. The level of calls for service is approaching almost 13,000 incidents annually which reflect a 4% increase over the previous year. Like others, this department is expected to be more productive despite being provided with level-funded resources. This only serves to increase the challenge of maintaining the quality of life that has become the level of expectation within our community. Each and every member of this department should be recognized for rising above the norm and providing an outstanding level of service and commitment to the citizens of Hamilton.

The business of public safety continues to emphasize the importance of Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness. Training requirements and certification levels for all of our police personnel have been reviewed and updated as necessary. Of course criminal investigation, crime prevention and traffic safety enforcement remain an integral part of policing for which we share our respective percentages of activity that tend to accurately reflect national averages. Our officers deal with this aspect of their employment with the same level of commitment that is put forth in their efforts to remain committed to the town through Community Policing. Unique to our community policing commitment is the fact that this police department is responsible for the emergency medical response that is provided to those in need. The Hamilton Police Ambulance regularly responds to hundreds of incidents that mayor may not result in the transport of patients to one of our local medical care facilities. Over the past year 298 patient transports were completed which is a 13% increase over the previous year. Our newest piece of medical equipment, a brand-new 2007 ambulance, is expected to arrive approximately mid year.

Speaking of new, the entire department anxiously awaits the move-in day for the new Public Safety Building. In fact as I write this report the construction schedule is well ahead of schedule and by the time you read this I expect that we will be occupying our new home. As you can imagine this building brings about a significant sense of pride in our department and has been a long-awaited project. We thank the citizens of Hamilton for supporting their public safety agencies. An open house is being planned for later in the year so please watch for the date and join us in celebrating what is sure to be the premier public safety facility on the north shore.

This department is proud to serve the people of Hamilton and will continue to offer the highest level of professionalism possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter D. Cullen, Chief of Police

HAMILTON-WENHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Hamilton-Wenham Public Library had another busy year in 2006. The Library Trustees who served during 2006 were Wendy Daynes, Chair; Doris Gallant; Annette Janes; Madelyn Liberti; Joanne Ridinger; and Elizabeth Stanton. The trustees are to be commended for their leadership and dedication to the library. This year they also added a successful fundraiser to their list of accomplishments. All of this year's high-quality events and services would not be possible without our library staff whose industriousness, creativity, talent and good humor make the library an inviting institution dedicated to lifelong learning and the joy of reading.

During 2006 we reached an all time record circulation of 223,979 items. This is a 13 percent increase over last year and an 18 percent increase over 2004. We had our "200,000 Checkouts" celebration day on December 21, 2006. Our meeting rooms were used by community groups and library programs a total of 827 times. The library offered 178 adult programs and 408 children's programs. Our reference department answered 16,506 reference questions. We also hosted six excellent art exhibits during the year. We worked very hard on collection development, improving both the quality and the presentation of our library materials.

At least 1,320 children participated in our Summer Reading Program, "What's Buzzin' at Your Library," which included many reading incentives and popular programs such as a concert by Grupo Fantasia, Vehicle Night (on the hottest night of the entire summer), Birds of Prey and Charlie Hoffman's Monarch Butterfly Program.

During 2006, we added a new part-time library assistant in the children's room to improve coverage and services. We now offer two new after-school book groups for elementary school children: *Eager Readers* for children in first, second and third grade and *Schoolyard Scholars* for children in fourth and fifth grade. Encouraging interest in books at an early age is our motivation behind *Baby Bookworms*, a story time for newborns and toddlers. All of our story times and children's programs are popular and well-attended. Our young adults enjoyed babysitting courses with the American Red Cross, a graphic novel club, drama workshops with Jape Payette and the advent of a renewed youth advisory group called the "Teen Think Tank."

For adults we offered many programs including two Friday night concerts, a Genealogy Lock-in, computer classes, Literary Luncheon and other book groups, and a series of art programs in the fall. Our senior citizens come out in increasing numbers to enjoy speakers and fellowship at our monthly Koffee Klatch. During 2006, a Cribbage Club and a Knitting Group started meeting at the library.

These programs would not be possible without the generous support of the Friends of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library who are a dedicated, helpful and hardworking group of volunteers. They held two very profitable book sales and a successful membership drive. Due to their energy and enthusiasm, the library has the following museum passes to offer the public: Boston by Food, Children's Museum in Boston, Cape Ann Historical Museum in Gloucester, DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Department of Conservation and Recreation Parks Pass, JFK Library and Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Peabody Essex Museum, Roger Williams Park Zoo, and the Wenham Museum. This year we worked with Plymouth Rock and the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium to become the first library in the Merrimack Valley to have a Tix-Keeper interface with our online library catalog. This software enables patrons to reserve museum passes online. The Friends also purchased new library card sleeves, shades for the large meeting room, and coffee for the Kuerig coffee machine in our new *Café BiblioTech*.

We thanked our staff and team of library volunteers at a reception on September 17, 2006. We truly depend on the support and efforts of our volunteers who are willing to help in countless ways throughout the library.

We were honored to host the Alexander Hamilton Exhibit on its nationwide tour in March. Local historians contributed to making this event a tremendous success.

Our website at www.hwlibrary.org continues to be a gateway to a commonwealth of information. All of our programs and events are listed on the website. Patrons can order library materials from home and access many databases. Besides the statewide and consortium databases, we offer our Hamilton-Wenham citizens' access to Ancestry.com Library edition and the ABC-Clio Geography Database. Ancestry.com has components that can be accessed from home using one's library card barcode and the geography database can be accessed remotely with the user name and password of *hwplpatron*.

We applied for and received an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant in August. The $7,500 "On the Same Page" grant enabled Hamilton and Wenham to do their first community read: *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder. Thematically related books for children and adults, as well as a multitude of programs will encourage cross-generational reading and discussion throughout the grant cycle. We thank Gordon College for partnering with us to make it possible for Tracy Kidder to come and speak in March 2007.

With a fresh coat of stain and more landscaping work, our library continues to be the gem of the community. We also added many interior improvements including a new kiosk for publicizing events and additional large print shelving. The girl scouts planted hyacinths and tulips and we look forward to enjoying them in the spring.

2006 has been a wonderful year at the library, always interesting and fulfilling. The citizens of Hamilton and Wenham are wonderful patrons, continually supportive and eager to learn; it is a joy and a privilege to work with them.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dempsey, Hamilton-Wenham Public Library Director

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE

A plan for a new public safety building to house all three public safety departments was offered to the Town in the form of: presentations to the Board of Selectmen; open meetings; public forums; and a presentation at Town Meeting. In May, 2005, the citizens approved $5.939 million dollars for the construction of a new facility, with the amount to be spread out over a twenty year bond.

In June, 2005, Reinhardt Associates of Agawam, Massachusetts, was hired as the architect to design the new facility. John Hale, of The Hale Design Studio, of Hamilton, Massachusetts, was hired as the project manager. During the summer and fall of 2005, the design process took place, with the final plans being ready to go out to bid in early December, 2005. In December, 2005, numerous sub contractors submitted their bids, and the sub contractor bids were opened on December 28, 2005. In January of 2006, only three general contractors submitted bids for this project, and the general contractor bids were opened on January 12, 2006. Unfortunately, the low bid exceeded the part of the appropriation designated for construction by approximately $800,000.00. The Public Safety Building Committee (PSBC) made additional cuts to the proposed design, and the project was rebid. Upon opening the second round of bids in the spring of 2006, the low bid again exceeded the part of the appropriation designated for construction by approximately $250,000.00. In May, 2006, the citizens approved an additional $250,000.00 for the construction of a new facility, with the amount to be spread out over a twenty year bond. The contract for construction was awarded to W. T. Rich Construction Company of Allston, MA.

The construction phase of the project began in the summer of 2006, and construction is expected to be completed in the spring of 2007.

The PSBC is thankful to the community for their support of this project.

All Public Safety Building Committee meetings are open to the public and your input and questions are welcome. Please feel free to contact a committee member at Town Hall at (978) 468-5572. The Public Safety Building Committee is comprised of Hamilton residents: Bob DeFelice; Dick Flynn; Phil McCarthy; Anne Marie Cullen, Emergency Center Director; Walter Cullen, Police Chief; Phil Stevens, Fire Chief; and Kalil Boghdan, Chairman.

Kalil Boghdan, Chairman

HAMILTON – WENHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Facilities Improvement: It has been a full, but tiring, year to making facility improvements. Our Board has purchased a new play structure for the Recreation Center's Multi-purpose field area for our pre-school population. A new backstop has been installed at Wildes Baseball field in Pingree Park. CPA monies were made available for a joint venture to renovate the outfield of the big league field at Patton Park. A new joint 2 Town, School and Recreation Department long range field use committee is being formed. which brings much promise to our current and future field issues.

Thank you: Many thanks to the Youth Sports Organizations for their continued support in working to help maintain our athletic fields, particularly in the development of a maintenance plan for the Donovan property.

Programs: On the program side of our mission, many have enjoyed the new rock climbing class offered in cooperation with Gordon College. A summer Lego camp has served the need of non-sport youngsters. We have a new Movement, "Music and More" mornings for pre-schoolers. Finally, a Wednesday after school Sports Jam for school age youngsters rounds out our already extensive program offerings.

Recreation Board Members:
Bob Kerrigan, Chairman 2010
Jay Butler, 2009
Denis Curran, 2008
Renee LaForce-MacDonald, 2009
Jane Lyman, 2008
Lindle Willnow, 2010

Recreation Department:
Maggie Whitesell, Director
Diane Manter Brown, Administrative Assistant

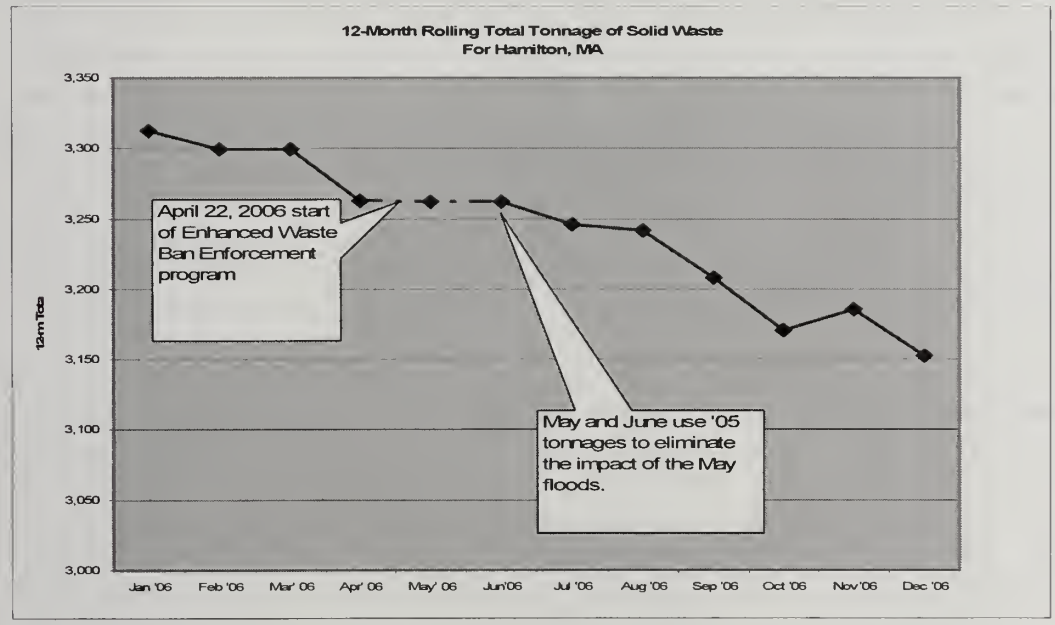
RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT
The Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department provides a wide variety of programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents by meeting physical and recreational needs. We promote life-long lessons through play, education and community wide events.

HAMILTON-WENHAM RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The Hamilton-Wenham Recycling Committee is a joint Committee comprised of members appointed by the Board of Selectman from both Towns. The Committee has been meeting regularly over the past year. In April, the Town of Hamilton instituted the town-wide ban of placing random cardboard in the trash. All cardboard must be either broken down into 2'X 2' pieces and tied or brought to the town hall and placed in the dumpster. Cardboard put in for regular trash pickup will be left behind. Hamilton is enforcing this eleven-year old state regulation. The Committee has been working with the Town's DPW and its trash collector to enforce this rule.

GOOD NEWS.

- Trash tonnage is down 88 tons in 2006 vs. 2005, despite the impact of May's floods.
- Recycling tonnage is up 25 tons in 2006 vs. 2005.
- With less trash, the Town saved over $6000 in disposal fees so far since April 2006.
- Just looking at the months since April, the start of enhanced enforcement of the state waste bans, the Town's trash tonnage has dropped nearly 150 tons or about 6%!
- The town hopes to achieve a 10% reduction in trash tonnage for this year.



During 2006, the Committee has published numerous articles about recycling in the local paper, spoken at Town Meeting to update the Town on the progress of recycling, and held a poster contest in the Town's three elementary schools to raise awareness of the need to recycle in Hamilton. The Committee also applied for, and received, a grant for State Department of Environmental Protection support to explore the Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT) system or a "Waste Reduction Program" (WRP) in the Town, which will help the town achieve even more savings due to reductions in trash tonnage. In 2007, the Committee hopes to bring this program wholly, or in part, formally to the Town for discussion and/or a vote.

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

	TERM EXPIRES
Donald E. Gallant, Chair 28 Mayflower Drive, Wenham 01984	2007
Richard L. Boroff, Vice Chair 40 Moynihan Road, Hamilton 01982	2008
Catherine A. Harrison, Treasurer 49 Pleasant Street, Wenham 01984	2008
Laurie Wilson, Asst. Treasurer 17 Boardman Lane, Hamilton 01982	2009
Jack O'Keefe, Secretary 5 Anthony Road, Hamilton 01982	2009
Lisa S. Gaquin, Asst. Secretary 45 Rock Maple Avenue, Hamilton 01936	2007
Denise A. Bisaillon 37 Beech Street, Hamilton 01982	2007
William F. Martin 101 Blueberry Lane, Hamilton 01982	2008
Alexa McCloughan 489 Bridge Street, Hamilton 01982	2009

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

I am pleased to present 2005-2006 Annual Report for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. As you read the school reports, you will note that the strength of our school district is in the quality of our students, our faculty, our support staff, our school leadership, and our two communities.

During the 2005-2006 school year, the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) had an enrollment totaling 2185 students with 948 in the elementary grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade five, 524 in the middle school grades six through eight, and 713 in the high school grades nine through twelve. The school district goal is to provide an engaging and comprehensive curriculum that challenges all students and raises their achievement level. Our students must meet not only our own local learning standards, but also the learning standards of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and those of colleges across the country.

To realize the HWRSD goal, teams of teachers and principals work diligently to strengthen the academic program for higher student achievement by embedding all state framework requirements within a strong District curriculum. Through state and federal grants and the generosity of the Hamilton and Wenham Education Fund, teachers availed themselves of quality staff development programs to ensure successful implementation of programs. Through the dedication, commitment, and caring of our teachers and support staff, Hamilton and Wenham students were recognized for their achievements in the academics, arts, athletics, and activities during the 2005-2006 school year. Our elementary students participated in the artists in residence program; our middle school College Bowl students scored first place in a statewide competition and our sixth grade won first place in Essex County for their participation in the New England Mathematics League math team. Middle School students also were recognized for their achievements in band competitions and the Boston Globe Art Awards. Our high school students received awards at the local and state level in history and science, the New England Drama Festival, Boston Globe Key Art Awards, District Band and Chorus, Massachusetts All-State Band and Cape Ann League athletic titles including first in football and swimming while the girls' soccer team advanced and competed in the state Division III championship final.

The May 2005 MCAS scores reveal that Hamilton-Wenham student scores are above the state average in all four subject areas tested *(see Director of Curriculum's report for detail). Every* member of the Class of 2006 has passed both the English and math sections of the MCAS which will enable all of them to graduate in June. In the area of college admission test scores, 91% of HW Regional High School students took the SAT I with an average score of 1149 (Verbal – 575 and Math - 574). Eighty-seven students took 110 Advanced Placement examinations in Calculus, English Literature, European History and U.S. History, and achieved an average score of 3.9 out of 5.0. The Class of 2006 has one semi-finalist (Laura Krachman) and eleven commended students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The H-W Regional School District continued its collaboration with the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham through the Towns/School Budget Process Committee (T/S BPC). I believe that the successful passage of the FY 07 school budget for $23,326,779, which included a Proposition 2½ Override for $294,479, was due to the commitment made by the towns and the school district to develop our budgets with more collaboration that produced a consensus-driven result. Even with this level of commitment from the towns, the School District could not maintain "level services" for FY 07. The FY 07 budget represented a "reduced services" budget of $23,326,779 which was offset by state revenues totaling $4.5 million dollars and a $245,000 offset from the District reserve fund and balanced with the school override request of $294,479.

As many know, the Chapter 70 state funding was decreased for the 7th consecutive year. In FY 01, the District received 19% of its budget from Chapter 70; in FY 07 the District received only 13% of its funding from Chapter 70 state aid. The School Committee continues to work hard with our legislators to change this formula to relieve the burden of the taxpayers.

Specifically, the FY 07 override funds provided 2.5 teaching assistants to provide reading support for 20% of our neediest K-2 students; 2.5 full time integrated arts teachers which maintained the FY 06 class size in art, music, physical education, technology education, life skills & Spanish and two high school teachers which enabled the high school to retain ten academic sections ensuring that the majority of students are fully scheduled.

The FY 07 budget also maintained funding for athletic and extracurricular fees at the 50%-50% level. Although the District lost ten teaching and support positions, the reinstatement of 7.5 full time teaching positions funded by the $294,479 override checked further erosion of the educational programs for which our District is recognized and valued. The FY 07 budget provided better learning opportunities for our students; time for our teachers to collaborate about students and curriculum, and opportunities to forge stronger relationships with families.

Additionally, the FY 07 budget, even with the school override, did not contain any funding to address our recently completed strategic plan. The Strategic Plan was developed by community and school members based upon input from nearly 300 community and school people who participated in the various focus groups. The central purpose of the Strategic Plan is to restore, rebuild, and advance the curricular programs, services, and operations that are essential for our students today. If we had followed our strategic plan, we would have restored 10 positions in the academics and the arts totaling nearly $500,000. The strategic plan is not excessive; it is what our students need.

While this budget balanced the education needs of students with economic realities, the FY 07 budget, once again, did not have the full support of our constituents. We had many constituents who believed the budget should have been higher so we could maintain a greater number of our academic programs. We also had just as many constituents who believed the budget should have been lower so as to ease the tax burden. We believed this budget was a fair, middle-of-the-road budget that had compromises on all sides.

At the June 10, 2006 School Committee meeting, the District bid farewell to eight teachers and administrators at the fourth annual "We Honor You" reception. Honored retirees included: Susan O'Brien (35 years), Charles Allen (28 years), Catherine Thibedeau (33 years), Arnie Klayman (32 years); Robert Weinhold (32 years); Marilyn DeLena (30 years), Charles E. Cooke, III (24 years) yrs and Cutler School Principal Susan L. Cooke (23 years).

No report of this kind would be complete without taking the opportunity to thank the many people who supported our schools this past year. On behalf of the students, faculty, administration, and School Committee, I thank the Friends of Pre-School, Buker, Cutler, Winthrop, Miles River, and High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Board, HW Education Fund, HW Rotary Club, HWRHS Sports and Activities Alliance, Pro Musica II, Gordon-Conwell Seminary, and the many generous parents and community members who contributed time and money to support our schools.

I am also grateful to our faculty, staff, principals, assistant principals, and the District Leadership Team for their devotion to the children and youth of Hamilton and Wenham. Finally, we are most appreciative to the townspeople of Hamilton and Wenham and the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees who have seen us through difficult times and who continue to support our efforts to make the Hamilton-Wenham Schools the very best they can be.

The FY 06 Budget Process personified the values of cooperation and collaboration that embody our communities. As your Superintendent, I thank each and every community member for their support of our students.

In closing, our initiatives continue to advance the coherence and quality of our educational program. There are many goals yet to realize which are dependent upon high levels of budget funding. Our professional staff must

have the resources if we are to continue to be competitive with similar school districts in developing, providing, and maintaining a high quality educational program for our students in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools.

Dr. Marinel D. McGrath, Superintendent of Schools

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services Department of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District provides a wide range of programs for students with disabilities, ages 3 to 22. Currently, 343 students in the District (15.8% of the general population) are identified as needing Special Education services. Special Education is a required program for all school districts under both federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Act – IDEA) and state law (Chapter 766). Eligibility for Special Education services is based upon the presence of a diagnosed disability, the inability to make effective progress in the general curriculum due to the disability, and the need for specially designed instruction or related services. A Team of teachers, parents and other professionals collaborate in making eligibility determinations for each student. Evaluation Teams, composed of trained professionals including school psychologists, special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, and other specialists utilize a full battery of diagnostic instruments to assess the individual needs of the students.

The Integrated Preschool serves students from ages 3 to 5. Teachers, teaching assistants, monitors, and therapists work collaboratively to deliver services via an integrated model. In this setting, preschoolers learn and play together with their non-disabled peers. As students with disabilities reach school age, this inclusive and integrated model continues with most Special Education students receiving services within the general education classroom. Professional special educators, trained paraprofessionals, and therapists support our classroom teachers in meeting the needs of students with learning disabilities, health and sensory disabilities, communication disorders, neurological impairments, cognitive deficits, and emotional and behavioral difficulties. The Academic Opportunities and ASPIRE programs serve our most disabled students and include academics and life skill instruction both in the school and in the community. A Language Based Program at the middle school provides specialized instruction and curricula for students with language based learning issues. At the high school level, the STAY program offers a therapeutic educational setting for students at-risk of school failure due to emotional, learning, and behavioral issues.

The Special Education Department is evaluated annually on a three-year rotation between elementary, middle school and high school programs. These evaluations are required by law of all public schools as a means of ensuring quality programs for students with disabilities. In addition, the Department of Education conducts a full Coordinated Program Review every six years, with a mid-cycle review during one of the years in between. The Coordinated Program Review for Hamilton-Wenham was conducted during October 2006 and included a review of numerous student records, tours of each building and special education facilities, parent surveys and interviews, and staff and administrative interviews. The initial response from the Department of Education commended the dedication and professionalism of District staff. A full report from the Department of Education is pending.

The Department is proud of its record of service within the District and recognizes that the high quality teaching practices of classroom teachers and the strong District Curriculum have set the climate of educational excellence that allows students with disabilities to succeed. The support of the School Committee, the Superintendent, School Administrators, families and townspeople has been essential in meeting the needs of all learners in the District.

Allison Brown Collins, Interim Director of Student Services

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District continues to work with the Leadership Team and the staff to focus the district's curriculum and professional development work around the district's goals and strategic plan

The Hamilton-Wenham School District (HWRSD) continues to renew and revise curriculum according to the guidelines established and approved in 2004. Currently, curriculum and instruction task forces are established in all content areas and Technology. The task force committees continue to work on refining curriculum guides, developing curriculum maps and establishing bench mark assessments. The Curriculum and Professional Development Committee continues to oversee the task force committees, plan the curriculum articulation days, and related professional development.

The Curriculum Office and the Technology Committee continue to over see the implementation of the five year technology plan, a framework for defining a direction for educators, determining needs in our schools, and outlining goals for our students in the area of technology. A revised Acceptable Use Policy was developed the Technology Committee and adopted by the School Committee in 2006.

The Curriculum Office supervises the programming for our 17 English Language Learner students and the 61 students who qualify for Section 504 Individual Accommodation Plans. The Curriculum Office is responsible for reviewing and approving Home Education Plans for 27 students from 15 families residing in Hamilton and Wenham.

Fortunately, state and federal grants have allowed us to continue offering quality professional development opportunities and support to our teachers. The HWRSD has been able to offer its staff numerous grant funded professional development opportunities which include, Intel Teach to the Future, technology integration, the Responsive Classroom, Universal Design for Learning, Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies, and the Collaborative Project for Mathematics, Science, and Interdisciplinary Education. The Beginning Teacher Orientation, Induction and Mentoring Program and the curriculum coach positions have also been funded through grants. In addition, staff members are involved in 51 special project professional development opportunities during the early release Wednesday time period

During the 2006-2007 school year the HWRSD was awarded 7 state grants (5 entitlement and 2 competitive), 2 federal competitive grants and 3 private competitive grants totaling in the aggregate of $318,244. These grants were targeted for MCAS remediation, staff professional development, curriculum support, curriculum development, physical education, health education, mental health services, early childhood education and drug, alcohol and violence prevention programs. Staff was also involved in professional development opportunities in science, mathematics, engineering and technology through grant supported programs in collaboration with Salem State College and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

MCAS scores reveal that Hamilton-Wenham student scores are above the state average in all five subject areas tested: reading, English /language arts, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering. Our school district is doing particularly well in the areas of reading (96% passing at grade 3); English (average of 98% passing at grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10), mathematics (average 95% passing at grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10) and science (97% passing at grades 5 and 8).

The HWRSD recognizes that student achievement, curriculum and professional development are interrelated and will continue to pursue and secure opportunities to support these connections.

Dr. Maryellen Duffy, Director

BESSIE BUKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Buker School had an enrollment of 259 students in grades prek-5 during the 2005-2006 school year. It was an exciting and productive year for our school community.

The year marked the beginning of our full-day kindergarten program at each of the elementary schools. We were excited to offer this option to our families. The program was well received and we had 13 students enrolled in the class. The 2 ½ day program continued to be offered as well. Nichole Miller and Anne Page joined our staff both as kindergarten teachers and formed a successful team in their first year.

We had a few staff changes at Buker for the 2005-2006 school year. In addition to our new kindergarten team, we had changes on our grade 2 and 3 teams as well. Beth Blanchard transferred from her kindergarten position to our grade 2 team. Kathy O'Shea, who had also been teaching kindergarten at the Cutler School, joined the Buker School faculty. Patti Miller moved from grade 2 to grade 3. Karen Birner joined our Student Services team as a special education teacher. Our music program had a new look and sound with the addition of Stefanie Chiott as our music teacher.

We continued to work hard to improve our students' achievement in writing. At the elementary level, we focused our professional development in this area and worked with both Fred Wolff and Gary Chadwell throughout the year. These consultants modeled lessons in classrooms and provided teachers with training in the teaching of writing.

The Friends of Buker again supported the work we do in the classrooms through a variety of cultural enrichment experiences for our students. Among these events were individuals who provided memorable performances such as Antonio Rocha, a master storyteller and mime, engaged the entire school with his amazing performances; Pamela Powell, a published author, worked closely with grades 3-5 to assist them with the writing process; and "The Dancers Courageous" program which helped our fourth grade students connect their science curriculum with expressive dance. It was a year filled with enriching programs sponsored by our very supportive parent community.

Our active and industrious classrooms were filled with enthusiastic students and teachers. 2005-2006 highlights included the third grade culmination of their study of local history with a *Stepping Back into Massachusetts Day*. The fifth graders demonstrated their leadership skills and school spirit by coordinating a whole school reading challenge to read 200,000 minutes. The fifth grade concluded the year by performing their traditional musical, *Dig It*, directed by Ms. Stephanie Chiott. The fifth graders concluded their elementary years at Buker with a successful performance and a memorable 5th Grade Week experience.

Brian F. O'Donoghue, Principal

CUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

There were 342 students enrolled in grades K-5 at Cutler School. This number included our integrated, five-day kindergarten class. The success of the fee-based program will allow it to continue in 2007.

It was a year of transition for Cutler School's students, staff, and families as all were involved in the selection of a new principal to lead our school. Susan Cooke retired in June 2006 after eighteen years as principal. An extensive search and interview process began in January, and in March 2006, Jennifer Clifford, a former fifth grade teacher and assistant principal at the Hastings Elementary School in Lexington, was appointed as Cutler's new principal. It has been a smooth transition thanks to our dedicated staff, families, and students.

Curriculum initiatives in 2006 included the continued implementation of the nationally recognized program, *Fundations*, focusing on early literacy, including explicit phonemic and spelling instruction. Elementary teachers continued to focus on teaching effective writing skills with an emphasis on the *Six Traits of Writing* and the *Collins Writing Program*. Teachers have used their professional development time to share students' writing and examine their own teaching of writing.

The Cutler School Council, acting in an advisory capacity to the principal, met monthly to support initiatives and school goals. This year's School Council members are: community member Susie Rowland; teachers Mary Adamik, Dede Johnson and Cerissa Schartner; parents Mary DeLorenzo, Bob Francis, and Beth Loeper; Friends of Cutler representative Anne Roberts; and Jennifer Clifford, principal. A new School Improvement Plan will be drafted by the School Council this year.

The Friends of Cutler, led by Cheryl Walsh, remained an integral support to our school by providing extensive financial and volunteer assistance. The Friends have made considerable technology contributions, placing additional SmartBoards and laptop computers in the school. They continued to bring cultural enrichment programs as well as the *Meet the Masters* program to enhance the curriculum for every student.

Cutler School also benefited from the generosity of the Hamilton-Wenham Education Fund, which placed two SmartBoards in classrooms this year. In addition, Pro Musica subsidized the program for the Honor Chorus at the elementary level. This year 4th and 5th graders that wish to participate in Honor Chorus can do so without paying a User Fee. Pro Musica continues to scholarship eligible students' instrument lessons.

Thank you for your continued support of Cutler School and our children.

Jennifer E. Clifford, Principal

WINTHROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

There are 347 students enrolled at the Winthrop School. This number includes our pre-school class, half-day kindergarten classes and the integrated, five-day, kindergarten classes.

"River Run" was a remarkable, creative, community endeavor initiated by parent, Susan Tomases to build an outdoor learning space with a gravel river bed in scale to the Miles River, garden areas and structures for exploration and investigation. We received a grant to the Toyota Tapestry Foundation $10,000 for "River Run and a grant from the Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Commission along with many donations from Winthrop School families and residents of the community. Contractors and landscapers broke ground in June with construction planned over the summer. The project was well underway by the time school opened in August, 2006. Over a hundred families worked on the project on a week-end in September with children working along with parents to sand wood, shovel gravel, strip leaves from branches to build the human-size birds' nest, and plant grass seed. Winthrop School is now the site of a one of a kind outdoor learning space for science and writing classes, exploration play at recess, and family fun on week-ends.

This year, the theme of "What Makes Winthrop Wonderful" helped us focus on the importance of each individual's contribution to our school community and the appreciation that we are a better place because everyone has different strengths and interests. The teachers and parents planned a unique way for children to learn establishing "Academic Choice" offering over fifty topics from which children could choose. Topics were turtles, insects, ballroom dancing, calligraphy, nature study at River Run, creative writing, cooking, were just a few of the many that were planned. We accomplished the goal of children making decisions about learning and working with others who had the same interest. I appreciate the efforts and support of the staff and parents to provide engaging and meaningful experiences for children through academic choice.

As I retire at the end of the 2006-2007 school year, I realize what makes Winthrop School wonderful. The staff and parents are committed to making this school a place where children can learn, be safe, and respected in all that they do. The community has demonstrated financial support of our school over the years and has been an integral part of the school, whether it be on voting day, contributing to fundraising activities, or attending concerts and special programs. It was my good fortune to have been principal of the Winthrop School. I will fondly remember the many children, families, and community members with whom I have worked over the years. Thank you, Hamilton and Wenham, for allowing me to be part of your communities.

Martha Cesarz, Principal

MILES RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 2005-2006 school year was very positive and stable for the Miles River Middle School. There were 524 students enrolled at the middle school. Although our dearly loved Art teacher, Charles Allen retired, we were able to retain our teaching staff for the second consecutive year.

There were two major technology improvements made to the middle school thanks to the Friends of Miles River and the Hamilton-Wenham Ed Fund. The Friends provided us with twenty-four new computers and four Smart Boards. The Ed Fund also provided grant funds for two additional Smart Boards. These improvements significantly enhanced the instructional practices and resources for both teachers and students. Technology needs will continue for the middle school since they are the essential tools for learning and communication for today's students.

Curriculum development and implementation continued. As part of our multi-year Social Studies plan, our popular and sophisticated Civics course was re-instated at the eighth grade level. Also, the English Language Arts program adopted the "Six Traits" writing program to support the writing process program. In addition, all grade 6-8 students were offered the opportunity to voluntarily participate in an extended day mathematics independent inquiry program. Several students researched and presented impressive, year-long, in-depth math projects to the public in May. Our Science department began a curriculum review process to align instruction with the Massachusetts Frameworks.

Our students performed well in many ways. For 2005-2006, our students met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards set by No Child Left Behind for all student subgroups. The New England Math League ranked our students in first place in Essex County. In the fall competition, our College Bowl team ranked first in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and fifty-eighth in the world.

Although budget constraints limited professional development activities, a great deal of in-service opportunities continued on-site. Our technology coordinator, Ms. Judith Naylor, offered after school Tech Tuesday workshops as well as customized trainings on the instructional uses of Smart Boards. Other teachers offered workshops in the area of special education and writing. Through grant funding, a peer mediation program and training was offered to students and teachers.

The Miles River Middle School community thanks the citizens of Hamilton and Wenham, the Friends of Miles River, the Hamilton Wenham Ed Fund, Pro Musica, and the many volunteers for their continued support and commitment to provide our children with an excellent education.

Janice C. DeSantis, Principal

Merger Study
In December 2004, Senator Berry filed further legislation which called for the merger of the North Shore Technical High School and Essex Agricultural & Technical High School, defining both a Temporary Oversight Board and the governance structure of the new school district. It further defined the procedure for existing members to vote for the merger, and included a requirement for the School Building Authority to report on the conditions necessary to facilitate the opening of the school. The Temporary Oversight Board members were named in 2005 and are presently awaiting another $250,000 to complete the feasibility study. The architects have begun Phase II of the feasibility study. We expect to have the approximate cost of the new school by the end of March 2007.

Administration
The North Shore Regional Vocational School District Committee, comprised of one member appointed to represent each member community, is the governing body of the School District. The Superintendent-Director and the administrative team carry out the policies of the District School Committee and oversee the daily operation of the school.

Enrollment
Student enrollment as of October 1, 2006 was 466. Students cite the interpersonal relationships with teachers, counselors, and administration, and the vocational/technical programs as the reasons for application. There continues to be a shortage of space for classrooms, shop areas, the library and the cafeteria. In addition, an auditorium is needed.

Students participate in programs in Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Commercial Art, Collision Repair, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical, Information Systems Technology, Graphic Arts, Health Technology, Machine Technology, Marketing and Information Systems and Masonry.

Adult Education
Adult Evening Education at North Shore is a self-supporting program that offers more than sixty (60) vocational-technical classes that enhance the professional and personal lives of the adult members of our community. The Program serves nearly one thousand adult students participating in a wide variety of courses. Popular fields of study include: computers, health, construction, welding and machine technology, culinary, automotive, business and personal finance. A number of courses have state approval for professional and trade license preparation.

The Adult Education Program continues to enjoy a reputation of providing quality vocational technical education to a demanding client that faces an ever-changing work place. We have an ongoing effort to provide competitive and progressive programming; our course offerings are continuously reviewed for either updating, or modification, and we research the local market for new offerings.

Adult Education at North Shore provides a much-needed service and is embraced by the community as an outstanding educational opportunity.

Business Office
The Department of Revenue has certified the amount in our unencumbered excess and deficiency funds/surplus revenue available July 1, 2006 at $430,839.

Funding Issues
The Fiscal 2008 Budget preparation is currently in process and will be presented to the District's Finance & Property Policy Sub-committee in February and subsequently to the District's School Committee. At this point, we have not received any financial data pertaining to fiscal 2008 from the Department of Education.

Financial Issues - Septic System
On July 17, 2006 the District issued a 10 year state serial note for $350,000 to replace the school's subsurface sewage disposal system. The project was completed over the summer. The District will make an annual principal payment of $35,000 plus semi annual interest payments beginning January 15, 2007 with the final principal and interest payment due on July 15, 2016.

David Ketcham is the Hamilton Representative for the North Shore Vocational District Committee

Amelia O'Malley. Superintendent-Director

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

I wish to thank the quality educators serving the families of Hamilton-Wenham. Our faculty dedicated themselves to the self-study and site visit of the New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges (NEASC) held in September, 2006.

Individuals who have retired from dedicated service included Marilyn DeLena, Applied Technology teacher, Arnold Klayman, English teacher, Catherine Thibedeau, English teacher, and Robert Weinhold, Social Studies teacher. They provided our students with rich and meaningful learning experiences. We also experienced the loss of Alice Schlossberg, Social Studies teacher, who passed away after her battle with pancreatic cancer. A gifted teacher, Alice was truly a school "institution" reaching out and enriching the lives of her students and her peers.

Our 713 students continue to excel in their daily academic endeavors, and in state and national testing. Our students' performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Advanced Placement, and MCAS tests are well above national and state averages. 84% of the graduating class continued their education at 4-year colleges, with an additional 9% continuing at two-year and post-secondary schools. We are also proud of our students serving in the military and those starting their careers in the workforce.

Students continue to be active in co-curricular activities with well over 150 students taking part in the annual science and history fairs and representing the high school in state, regional, and national competitions. Over 325 students were involved throughout the year in various clubs and activities.

Our art, music, and drama students continue to distinguish themselves. Several students won *Boston Globe* Key Awards, Drama Guild ensemble and individual awards at the New England One-Act Festival, and students were selected to District and All-State Band and Chorus.

Our athletic teams competed successfully in all three seasons highlighted by our Girl's Soccer Cape Ann Championship and State Tournament Finalist performance. The participation rates in athletics included 307 students in fall sports, 298 students in the spring, and 271 students in the winter season.

The support of our parent groups continues to be outstanding. The Friends of the High School, the various booster clubs, the Sports and Activities Alliance, and the Hamilton Wenham Ed Fund enriched our students' lives through their funding of athletics, extracurricular activities, and technology.

Robert M. Krol, Principal

MILES RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE EIGHT GRADUATES

Elaina Adamo
Rebecca Agocs
Nathan Aparo
Kristen Ashley
Kelsey Atwater
Edward Babcock
Zachary Baker
Kayla Barber
Jonathan Barth
Daniel Beckett
David Bird
Andrew Black
Carly Boal
Daniel Borghetti
Julia Bradshaw
Kayleigh Brand
Charlotte Brown
Nathaniel Brown
Dana Bucci
Eric Buckley
Bailey Bullis
Patrick Carey
Michael Carter-Williams
Alexander Catalano
Zoe Catalano
Cong "Sue" Chang
Philip Chansky
Lindsey Chapman
Carl Chisholm
Rebecca Chitro
Benjamin Chmura
Peter Clay
Brian Condon
John Connery
Matthew Cook
Zachery Cotter
Ryan Counihan
Mary Cronan
Derek Curr
Ralph D'Ambrosio
Meghan DePiero
Steven DeSantis
Michael Desclos
Ryan Dix
Gary Domoracki
Shawn Donnelly
Katherine Drake
Stephen Drieze
Henry Druschel
Jillian Dubray
Andrew Duval
Taylor Englehardt
Brock Enos
Andrew Erdman
Rebecca Fallon
Ruth Fischer
Gabrielle Fleming
James Flynn
Julian Flynn
Brian Ford
Jane Frye
Connor Galligan
Matthew Galvin
Meghan Gaucher
Zachary Gaucher
Amanda Getchell
Kerry Gilmartin
Hannah Gisness
Corey Goodwin
Jared Grillo
Nicholas Harris
William Harrison
Noah Hebert
Brandon Heitz
Joanna Hession
Molly Hines
Benjamin Hopkins
Grace Hughen
Christopher Hughes
Sean Jeffery
Patrick Jenkins
Anneke Johnson
Emma Johnson
Celina Keating
Anthony Kennedy
Katie Kerrigan
Andrew Kielty
Eric Kirlis
Zion Ko
Whitman Koch
Joshua Landis
Kirsten Leach
Elisabeth Lister
Paul Littlefield
Dean Loeper
Kallie Longval
Margaret Luddy
Jackson MacDonald
Catherine MacLean
Jessica MacMillan
Vito Mammola
Matthew Manter
Robert Marks
William Martin, II
Tyler McClure
Scott McCulloch
Nathaniel McGough
Brian McGrath
Matthew McKenzie
Harriet McMath
Michael McNamara
Samantha Meade
Melissa Merrill
Joseph Milanes
Jesse Mokler
Molly Monroe
Matthew Montanari
Stephanie Morrison
Zachary Morrison
Courtney Morse
Charles Mulcahy
Rebekah Murdoch
Colleen Murphy
Greta Musacchio
Jamie Nagy
Adam Nassaf
Kara Nickas
Margaret O'Brien
Shawn O'Keefe
Morgan Obrist
Justin Pacione
Benjamin Penta
Alexandra Perkins
Evan Perkins
Pitt Petri
Stephen Pettinati
Loralee Pomilla
Simone Prioli
Samantha Prior
Marial Quezada
Samantha Raasch
Max Ravich
Samuel Rendall
Amanda Rice
Ryan Ropes
Sarah Roundy
David Rowe
Nathan Ruane
Anthony Sabatini
Samantha Sanchez
Ethan Saylor
Adelaide Scofield
Lauren Scuteri
Brendan Shaughnessy
Cyrena Shiland
Taylor Smaldone
Julia Smith
Peter Smith
John Splaine
John St. Pierre
Lauren St. Pierre
Victoria Steeves
Grace Steward
Dylan Stratton
Kyle Sullivan
Caroline Swanson
James Tambone
Sloane Thomas
Roger Thompson
Caitlyn Tobyne
Matthew Townsend
Andrew Trustey
Andrew Tuscano
Patrick Twomey
Shane Tyack
Andrew Verrington
Courtney Waring
Michael Watkins
Sara Weld
Thomas Wellwood, IV
Benjamin Willnow
Brittany Wilson
Austin Wood
Leland Woodcox
Matthew Zisson

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Hillarie Jeanne Aiello
Nadine Kathryn Ardon
Chelsea Alexandra Attwood
Rachel Anne Atwood
Brooke Ellen Barsanti
Amanda Davis Barthelmes
Holly Prescott Batchelder
Cyrilla Rees Beaudry
Alyssa Ann Belezos
Grace Elizabeth Boal
Thomas Peter Borghetti
Eilish Moriarty Brown
Andrew Sheridan Brown
Jonathan Peabody Brown
Nora Lindsey Brown
Adam Cory Bullis
Laurel Anne Bulloch
Shannon Leigh Burke
Susan Ashley Campbell
Julia Anne Camuso
Christopher Anthony Capozzi
Brandon Christopher Carlson
Bryan Douglas Carr
Jesse Ellis Castleman
Shauna Catherine Cauley
Dana Alfred Cecere
Haley Ann Chapman
Changgon Joseph Cho
Jared Anson Clark
Caroline Curtiss Collett
Andrew Peter Collins
Jenna Lee Craig
Melissa Sinclair Croyle
Nicholas Davis-Laspesa
David Edward DeAngelis
Andrew Holton DeBlock
Nathan Evan Kushner DeGroot
Sonja Melissa Michele DeJong
Anthony Joseph Dragonetti
Jonathan Alden Drake
Caroline Mary Duffy
Colleen Frances Duggan
Mark Anthony Dupee
Ashley Frances Elder
Michael Hill Farwell
Carol Ann Constance Ferris
Angela Marilyn Figurido
Dylan Michael Fleming
Courtney Ann Flynn
Esme Lauren Flynn
Evan MacDonald Franz
Laura Elizabeth Freeman
Anna Elisabeth Frye
Olivia Boylan Gale
Peter Joseph Gonsiorowski
Christopher Robert Goodrich
William Leland Gross
Elizabeth Marie Gwynne
Stephen Jeffrey Hamilton
Shannon Rose Harrington
Jessica Susan Hartley
Jeffrey Ryan Hattabaugh
Amanda Ruth Hayes
Daniel Mark Herrick
Jesse Falcon Hill
Hannah Elise Hoar de Galvan
Rebecca Jane Hodges
Inge Borregard Pedersen Hopps
Emily Anne Howard
Hannah Ruth Hoy
Christopher John Huggett
Lindsay Marie Hursty
Marianne Shelley Jack
Laura Rose Johnson
Sarah Louise Karpp
Elaina Christine Kazes
Stephen James Kefalas
Devon Siobhan Kelley
Brittany Shayamali Ketcham
Shan Shoukat Khan
Donald Alan Klemer
Katherine Ellen Knopf
Laura Kim Krachman
Lisa Joy Landrebe
Jasmine Lee-Barber
Kagan Michael Longval
Nicholas McLean Lounsbury
Hailee Elizabeth Lowe
Amanda Louise Lund
Alexander Sanford Madden
Nathan Douglas Maddem
Heather Jane Maes
Corey Brien Maguire
Bianca Rose Malatesta
Andrew William McCracken
Sara Moran McDermott
James Andrew McGahey
Kevin John McGrath
Matthew Robert James McGrath
Andrew Everett McIntyre
William Shore McIntyre
Maxanne Elizabeth Menezes
Sam Philip Monroe
Nicole Healey Murray
Abisa Nam
Andrew Thomas Nolan
Catherine May O'Neill
Patrick Joseph Orr
Sasha Kiely Ozahowski
Meghan Abbott Patrolia
Benjamin Shattuck Peabody
Cortney Caroline Penta
Alexandra Jaudon Percy
Anne Michelle Pomeroy
Daniel Leonard Reid
Laura Marie Ricker
Kate Rebecca Roberts
Shamus Bragan Russell
Sean Michael Scanlan
Kurt Alan Schmidt
Peter Richard Serafini
Julia Ann Sexton
Ashley Elizabeth Sheppard
Rachel Susan Shopper
Lindsey Katherine Shuka
Michael Burke Smith
Bradford Eric Smith
David Stephen Smolinski
Kurt Austin Snavely
Colleen Elizabeth Splaine
Sara Anne Spurr
Jared Scott Standley
Sarah Bethan Stockwell
William Callison Stokely
Margaret Phelps Stookey
John Colby Sullivan
Erin Elizabeth Sullivan
Julia Rachel Tam
Joseph Ryan Tinkham
Michael Joseph Vandi
Kayleigh Taylor Verrington
Caitlin Aileen Waldron
Kyle Jonathan Waring
Allan Robert Watson
Bonnie Elizabeth Weissman
Benjamin Charles Welboum
Hilary Markham Whyte
Keith Adam Winer
Mary Catherine Woodbury
Jie Xu

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

All devices used to weigh or measure for commerce in the Town of Hamilton have been tested and sealed in accordance with state regulations. The Treasurer/Collector received all fees collected.

Business	Device	Revenue
Connolly	Scales	$30
CVS	Scales	$40
Crosby Marketplace	Scales	$260
G & M Motors	Gasoline Pumps	$320
Hamilton Convenience Store	Gasoline Pumps	$240
Hungry Fox	Scales	$10
Meadowbrook Farms	Scales	$40
Oliver Gulf	Gasoline Pumps	$320
Welsh & Lamson	Fuel Oil Trucks, Rack Test and Diesel Oil Dispensers	$135

Robert D. Rose, Sealer

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's Office serves as a general information center to the public, posting meetings for the various boards, informing residents of general information about the Town, its activities, genealogical information, and legal and business decisions set by the Town boards. In addition, we are responsible for local and state elections, recording and certification of all official actions from town meetings, census maintenance and voter registration, maintenance and issuance of vital records, issuing various licenses, raffle permits and business certificates.

This year the Town Clerk's Office was especially busy with three elections, three town meetings (two of which we were unable to hold due to lack of a quorum (150)).

I would like to thank Marissa Frerk and Marsha Perkins for their dedication and effort in performing the many and varied duties which make it possible for this office to run smoothly. Marissa has also done an outstanding job with updates to the Hamilton Web page, keeping the residents well informed. We were very fortunate to have dedicated senior volunteers who assisted us with numerous special projects, specifically Edward Haraden, Aileen Bianco and Carol Kirby. We sincerely appreciate their efforts.

STATISTICS

	2004	2005	**2006**
Marriage Licenses Issued			
Residents (One or both parties from Hamilton)	28	28	**16**
Non Residents	8	9	**17**
Total	36	37	**33**
Births Recorded			
Male	46	49	**49**
Female	35	40	**43**
Total	81	89	**92**
Deaths Recorded			
Residents	43	31	**35**
Non Residents	1	0	**0**
Total	44	31	**35**
Fish and Game Licenses Issued			
Fishing Licenses			**55**
Hunting Licenses			**26**
Sporting Licenses			**13**
Trapping			**1**
Waterfowl Stamps			**19**
Archery Stamps			**17**
Primitive Firearms			**16**
Dog Licenses Issued			
Total Dogs			**1,197**
Total Kennels			**17**

Thank you to the Board of Health and Dr. Pett for organizing the Rabies Clinic this past spring and we extend a special thanks to our dedicated Dog Officer, Dyan Katz for her outstanding work with Hamilton's furry friends.

Elections and Registrations

Board of Registrars -Mary Anne Burridge, Edward Seaver, Forester "Tim" Clark and Jane M. Wetson, Clerk Officio.

The Annual Town Election, State Primary and State Election were held at the Winthrop School. I sincerely thank the dedication and hard work of Greg Stevens, Paul Rigol, Jim Wilson and Bob Timpani in setting up the elections, the Board of Registrars, the Election Officials, and the Hamilton Police, the custodians and kitchen staff at Winthrop School for all their support and professionalism.

We had the privilege of testing the Diebold Handicap Accessible Voting Machine at the State Election. Several voters used this new machine and thought it to be very user friendly. Dean Avellis was first to vote from a wheelchair and thought it was a great experience. John Sanders, who is a blind resident, was able to vote by himself for the first time by listening to the ballot being read through ear phones and voting using a key pad. He was honored and very happy to vote unassisted.

Summary of Elections & Town Meeting for 2006

05/01/06	Annual Town Meeting with 356 registered voters (7%).		
05/03/06	Annual Town Meeting Adjourned session with 223 registered voters (4%).		
05/11/06	Annual Town Election with 1,621 ballots cast. 30% of the total 5,393 registered voters.		
09/19/06	State Primary with 1,246 ballots cast. 23% of the total 5,428 registered voters.		
11/07/06	State Election with 3,587 ballots cast. 65% of the total 5,484 registered voters.		
11/13/06	Special Town Meeting	-	Adjourned due to lack of quorum (150). 2% - 129 registered voters attended out of 5,503.
11/14/06	Special Town Meeting	-	Adjourned due to lack of quorum (150). 2% --- 130 registered voters attended out of 5,503.

Annual census forms were mailed, and again we are urging residents to complete and return as soon as possible. Massachusetts State and Federal funding and representation depend on population. Also, the data is very important to our Police and Fire Departments for safety reasons.

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total	% Overall
Democrat	373	345	204	**922**	**11%**
Green Party USA			1	**1**	
Green-Rainbow	2	1	2	**5**	
Internat 3rd Party	4	4	1	**9**	
Libertarian	8	4	5	**17**	
Reform	1			**1**	
Republican	387	439	575	**1401**	**17%**
Unenrolled *	1259	1065	837	**3161**	**38%**
Non-Voters	906	879	1029	**2814**	**34%**
Total Residents	**2940**	**2737**	**2654**	**8331**	**100%**

* Unenrolled was formerly referred to as Independent:

I thank you for allowing me to serve you and for all your support throughout the year.

Jane M. Wetson, Town Clerk

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

I hereby submit my Annual Report as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hamilton for the calendar year ended December 31, 2006.

January 1, 2006	**$ 8,722,266**
Receipts	$ 23,729,335
Disbursements	($ 26,993,407)
December 31, 2006	**$ 5,458,194**

Investments - December 31, 2006	
Stabilization Fund	$ 584,234
Clark Property Fund	$ 226,170
Conservation Commission	$ 84,929
Cultural Council	$ 3,656
Comcast	$ 84,717
CPA	$ 715,981
Junction	$ 3,058
Verizon	$ 188,641
Bartholomew	$ 2,362,848
Merrill Lynch - Trust Funds	$ 404,667
	$ 4,658,898

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl J. Booth, CMMT, CMMC, Treasurer/Collector

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Calendar Year Ending 12/31/06

COLLECTIONS	YEAR	January - June	July - December	Total
REAL ESTATE	2007	$ -	$ 8,555,216	$ 8,555,216
	2006	$ 9,099,181	$ 132,725	$ 9,231,906
	2005	$ 880	$ -	$ 880
		$ 9,100,061	$ 8,687,941	$ 17,788,002
PERSONAL PROPERTY	2007	$ -	$ 56,381	$ 56,381
	2006	$ 55,026	$ 410	$ 55,436
	2005	$ 13	$ -	$ 13
		$ 55,039	$ 56,791	$ 111,830
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2006	$ 841,156	$ 117,002	$ 958,158
	2005	$ 32,688	$ 4,547	$ 37,235
	2004	$ 3,546	$ 981	$ 4,527
Prior to	2003	$ 281	$ 883	$ 1,164
		$ 877,671	$ 123,413	$ 1,001,084
BOAT EXCISE	2006	$ 61	$ 3,241	$ 3,302
	2005	$ 179	$ 38	$ 217
	2004		$ 8	$ 8
		$ 240	$ 3,287	$ 3,527
WATER				
Rates		$ 318,174	$ 473,402	$ 791,576
General Billing		$ 10,134	$ 10,669	$ 20,803
Liens		$ 14,727	$ 4,243	$ 18,970
Penalties & Interest		$ 179	$ 184	$ 363
		$ 343,214	$ 488,498	$ 831,712
CPA	2007	$ -	$ 141,183	$ 141,183
	2006	$ 152,194	$ 1,948	$ 154,142
Interest		$ 209	$ 242	$ 451
		$ 152,403	$ 143,373	$ 295,776
TAX TITLES		$ 33,984	$ 67,890	$ 101,874
BETTERMENTS		$ 3,846	$ 26	$ 3,872
PENALTIES & INTEREST		$ 37,643	$ 40,291	$ 77,934
MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATES		$ 2,500	$ 3,275	$ 5,775
TOTAL		**$ 10,606,601**	**$ 9,614,785**	**$ 20,221,386**

EASTERN ESSEX DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

This department is charged under Chapter 115 Massachusetts General Laws with providing services to veterans, their survivors and dependents. Principal workload under state law includes the administration of aid to veterans and dependents. Communities' fund this program, which is subsequently 75% reimbursed the following fiscal year by the Commonwealth. This is a need based program and the department is required to conduct periodic comprehensive review of the cases to insure no substantive facts have changed, while working with the veteran to identify alternative or long-term solutions to individual circumstances. During the calendar year one Hamilton veteran was on this program. Under state law the department also assists qualified veterans to obtain bonuses, and qualified veterans, widows and parents to obtain state annuities, property tax abatements, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Services program also mandates extensive interaction within the federal community, principally with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) assists veterans and their dependents in filing for pensions, service connected injury/illness compensation, dependency indemnity compensation for survivors, VA healthcare enrollment, insurance claims, decedent claims, and many other issues. Federal benefits processed by this department are paid directly to those eligible to receive the assistance or entitlement. The VA sent approximately $473,000 to eligible recipients in Hamilton, of which the current staff is responsible for approximately $224,000 dollars paid to or saved by those assisted in Hamilton.

Additionally, the department interacts within the federal community to correct military records, obtain needed documentation and insure veterans/dependents receive awards and recognition to which entitled. The VSO provided information, advice or assistance to 53 of the town's 440 *identified* veterans and 4 of the 86 *identified* veterans' widows during 2006. We also provide support and information assistance for National Guard and Reserves called up for service in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families.

The Director and the Assistant to the Director, Georgia Gadbois, advocate for veterans on issues at the local, state and federal level, interact with elected and appointed officials on issues, and work with local organizations in serving the community. Key state legislation passed in 2006 included an increase in property tax abatements for service-connected disabled veterans, which will be fully reimbursed by the Commonwealth. We also assisted the Hamilton WWII Monument Committee in developing the monument and the dedication ceremony, and are working with the Korean War and Vietnam War committees in developing their portion of the memorial. The department also provided information, assistance and guidance for senior citizens in determining their needs for Medicare D insurance.

The Eastern Essex District is composed of the Towns of Essex, Georgetown, Hamilton, Ipswich, Rowley, West Newbury and Wenham. A Board of Directors consisting of one selectman (or designee) from each town maintains oversight. Mr. William Bowler is the Hamilton member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Cheryl Booth, Treasurer for the Town of Hamilton, is also the District Treasurer.

Terrance P. Hart, District Director

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of Twenty (20) petitions, two with multiple requests, in 2006. A summary of the Board's actions are as noted below:

(5) Petitions for Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Use:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for Extension/Alteration of a Non-Conforming Use:	Withdrawn without Prejudice
(3) Petitions for Site Plan Review:	Approved with Conditions
(3) Petitions for Abbreviated Site Plan Review:	Approved with Conditions
(1) Petition for Abbreviated Site Plan Review:	Withdrawn without Prejudice
(4) Petitions for Special Permit for Temporary Living Area:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment:	Granted with Conditions
(1) Petition for a Comprehensive Permit (40B):	Granted with Conditions
(3) Petitions for Variances:	Withdrawn without Prejudice

The Zoning Board of appeals also participated in the following items during the year:

- The Zoning Board continued review of Massachusetts 40B Guidelines and legislation.
- The Zoning Board conducted hearings for the 40B development to be located on Essex Street, Hamilton at the site of the Junction Ice Cream stand.
- The Zoning Board reviewed and made recommendations to the Planning Board regarding proposed zoning by-law changes and additions.
- Members of the Zoning Board participated in town committees to develop criteria for a proposed Senior Housing By-Law and for study of the town Sanitary Landfill area.

Submitted By ZBA Board Members:

Beth Ganister, Chair
Winifred Whitman
David Sullivan
Diane Meibaum, Alternate
Susan Wiltshire, Alternate